LOK SABHA DEBATES

(Part I—Questions and Answers)

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LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT

NEW DELHI

LOK SABHA

Monday, 30th August, 1954.

The Lok Sabha met at a Quarter Past Eight of the Clock

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

निर्मला कालेज

*२३१. **श्री एम० एल० द्विवेदी** : क्या शिक्षा मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि क्या सरकार ने निर्मला कालेज, दिल्ली को कुछ सहायता देने का निश्चय किया है और यदि किया है तो कितनी ?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Education (Dr. M. M. Das): There is no institution by the name of Nirmala College in Delhi at present. Presumably the Hon'ble Member has in mind Kirori Mal College, Delhi, which is the successor to Nirmala College. Kirori Mal College, Delhi, will receive a grant-in-aid from the Government of India in accordance with the usual rules and regulations.

श्री एम० एल० द्विवेदी : मैं यह जानना चाहता था कि निर्मला कालेज को जब अमरीकन जैस्युइट्स चलाते थे तो उन्होंने इस कालेज के लिए कितनी धनराशि छोड़ी थी ?

Dr. M. M. Das: This College was managed by the Jesuit Educational Society during the years 1951-52 and 1952-53. During the year 1951-52 the Central Government had to give a grant-in-aid amounting to Rs. 60,000

and during the year 1952-53 a grant-in-aid amounting to Rs. 87,003.

श्री एम० एल० द्विवेदी : मैं यह जानना चाहता था कि यह कालेज जब से करोड़ी मल कालेज बना है तब से इस कालेज की आर्थिक स्थिति क्या है और गवर्नमेंट इसको कितनी ग्रांट-इन-एड देने का वायदा करती है और उस ग्रांट को डिटरमिन करने का क्या तरीका है ?

Dr. M. M. Das: The College has been taken over by the Kirori Mal Trust, only this year, in July, last. So the amount to be given as grant-in-aid cannot be determined now. It depends upon the number of students admitted and the expenditure of the College. The grants-in-aid are determined by the rules and regulations framed under the executive order of the Government of India which were issued when the Delhi University was reorganised in the year 1942.

श्री एम० एल० द्विवेदी : मेरे पहले प्रश्न का उत्तर नहीं मिला । वह यह था कि गवर्नमेंट कितनी ग्रांट-इन-एड दे रही है और करोड़ी मल कितनी दे रहे हैं ?

Mr. Speaker: He has asked three questions in one.

***श्री एम० एल० द्विवेदी** : गवर्नमेंट ने कितनी एड दी इसका जवाब ही नहीं मिला ।

Mr. Speaker: I think he answered the question saying that it is too early to say.

श्री एम० एल० द्विवेदी : मैं यह जानना चाहता हूं कि गवर्नमेंट कितनी ग्रांट-इन-एड देती है ?

Mr. Speaker: He wants to know how much aid Government have given apart from grant.

Dr. M. M. Das: Sir, aids and grants are the same thing. The amount to be given as grant-in-aid will be determined by the rules and regulations under the executive order issued by Government. It is on the basis of 50 per cent. of the approved expenditure on the salaries, allowances and the provident fund of the teaching staff and 33 1/3 per cent. of the approved expenditure on the salaries etc. of the non-teaching staff and other contingent expenditure; or 90 per cent. of the net deficit of the College (net deficit means approved expenditure minus approved income of the College), whichever is less.

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty: During these two or three years what has been the total expenditure put in by the Jesuit Fathers? May I know also the amount, if any, that has been paid from the Rehabilitation Ministry, because a large number of the students are refugees?

Dr. M. M. Das: I am sorry the information is not at my disposal at present.

CUSTOMS EXAMINATION AT INDIAN PORT

*232. **Shri S. N. Das:** Will the Minister of **Finance** be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Indian Chamber of Commerce, Singapore, in its annual report, has strongly criticised the India Government for the treatment meted out by the Customs and other authorities to Indians returning from abroad;

(b) if so, what are the important points; and

(c) whether Government have taken any action in this regard?

The Deputy Minister of Finance (Shri A. C. Guha): (a) In his speech at the Thirteenth Annual General Meeting of the Indian Chamber of Commerce, Singapore, on 29th May, 1954, which has been reproduced in the Chamber's Annual Report, the President of that Chamber referred critically to the severity of customs examination at Indian ports.

(b) A copy of the relevant portion of the speech is laid on the Table of the House. [*See* Appendix III, annexure No. 1.]

(c) Yes. In his speech delivered on the 17th May, 1952, the President of the Chamber made certain general allegations regarding harassment by Customs officers to overseas Indians coming to settle down in India. Our representative in Singapore was immediately requested to obtain from the President of the Chamber details of specific cases of harassment so that those could be enquired into. But no further reply was received.

Instructions have been issued to the Customs authorities from time to time to be considerate and courteous in their examination of passengers' baggage without laying emphasis on petty offences. Complaints received are promptly investigated and remedial measures taken wherever necessary. It is considered that the Customs check now in force cannot be further reduced without detriment to revenue and evasion of trade and exchange control regulations resulting from large-scale smuggling of foreign goods into India. Contrary to the President's allegations no duty is ordinarily levied, much less a penalty imposed on a single fountain pen or a small quantity of perfumed spirit brought by a passenger.

Shri S. N. Das: May I know whether any action has been taken by Government on the suggestion made in the third paragraph of that report to the effect that customs officials from each principal centre should be sent round the world to see how other Governments treat their countrymen when they return home?

Shri A. C. Guha: I think customs officials of India know all these things, because they go frequently to foreign countries. And I do not think

our customs restrictions are in any way worse than those in vogue in other countries.

Shri S. N. Das: May I know whether any action has been taken with regard to a suggestion made in the last paragraph of it to the effect that "it is almost difficult to get past the customs sheds without proper regard being paid to junior officials, if only the Government of India appoint a plain clothes vigilance officer to probe this, it might yield some very interesting results"?

Shri A. C. Guha: This may have reference to cases of alleged corruption. I would not claim that there is no case of corruption at all. But wherever any report is made, we take adequate action. And I do not think the position is so bad as this statement of the President would suggest.

KALYANVALA COMMITTEE'S RECOMMENDATIONS

*233. **Shri V. P. Nayar:** Will the Minister of **Defence** be pleased to state how many joint recommendations of the Kalyanvala Committee have been implemented as such upto the 1st July, 1954 and what are the recommendations so implemented?

The Deputy Minister of Defence (Shri Satish Chandra): The number of joint recommendations which have been accepted in entirety by Government is thirty and seven joint recommendations were accepted with certain modifications. Appropriate orders for the implementation of all 37 were issued before 1st July, 1954.

A statement giving brief particulars of the recommendations is placed on the Table of the Lok Sabha. [*See* Appendix III, annexure No. 2.]

Shri V. P. Nayar: May I know whether it is not a fact that the piece work rates in ordnance establishments were recommended for revision as early as 1947 by the Central Pay Commission and subsequently recommended in 1952 by the Kalyanvala Committee and they have not been implemented so far?

Shri Satish Chandra: Orders have already been issued for revision of the piece wage rates and their correlation to the monthly scales of pay. As a very large number of workers in different trades are involved, it takes time. Administrative steps have been taken to implement it as soon as possible.

Shri V. P. Nayar: Is it not a fact that as the recommendations for payments of over-time allowances made by the Kalyanvala Committee have not so far been implemented, in the Delhi C.O.D. alone over 36,000 man-hours have been put in by the workers without getting wages for the same?

Shri Satish Chandra: There is a very wide scope for supplementary questions. Kalyanvala Committee has submitted a very bulky report. The decisions of the Government have been printed in a pamphlet form and supplied to the hon. Member. If he gives notice of a specific question about any particular recommendation I shall try to answer it. But if he picks up anything from the report, it is very difficult to give an answer off-hand.

Shri V. P. Nayar: I do not know how I can ask a more specific question than ask whether it is not a fact that the recommendations were not accepted in regard to payment of over-time allowances, as a result of which in the Delhi C.O.D. alone over 36,000 man-hours have been put in by the workers without getting wages.

Shri Satish Chandra: Overtime allowance is always paid whenever it is due according to rules. Certain demands for additional overtime wages were made and they have not been accepted *in toto* by the Government.

Shri V. P. Nayar: Is it a fact that one of the members of the Kalyanvala Committee, in his report, said that the pay scales of the ordnance establishments are unscientific, irrational and arbitrary, and if so, what action do Government propose to

take to revise the scales immediately?

Mr. Speaker: I think the hon. Minister need not go into all that. The allegations are too wide.

Shri V. P. Nayar: I am only quoting from the report.

Mr. Speaker: It may have been stated. That may be discussed with the hon. Minister. Next question.

HINDUSTAN AIRCRAFT LTD.

*234. **Shri H. N. Mukerjee:** Will the Minister of **Defence** be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there are two advisers of the United Kingdom nationality representing the Bristol Aeroplane Company of United Kingdom working as technical advisers for the Indian Air Force in the Hindustan Aircraft Limited; and

(b) if so, what are the overall emoluments paid to each of them and which authority is paying them?

The Deputy Minister of Defence (Shri Satish Chandra): (a) Yes.

(b) The Government of India are paying £2,000/- per year each.

Shri H. N. Mukerjee: May I know if Government has ascertained that it was impossible to find Indian technicians to do this job, particularly when our experience of foreign nationals in this kind of strategic establishment is rather dubious?

Shri Satish Chandra: As far as the latter part of the question is concerned, it is a matter of opinion. There are no technicians with sufficient experience available in this country for this type of work.

Shri H. N. Mukerjee: May I know if the Government has tried to ascertain whether the advice given by these experts has led to the minimisation of accidents in respect of Dakotas and Tempests?

Shri Satish Chandra: These experts are there to watch the overhauling of engines and give advice on behalf of the company on any modifications or any fresh instructions issued by the manufacturers. It is the common practice not only in this country but in every other advanced country where the manufacturers' representatives are employed for giving advice at the time of overhauling aero-engines.

Pandit Munishwar Datt Upadhyay: May I know how many more foreigners are working in this firm, and in what positions and for how many years they are staying here?

Shri Satish Chandra: There are in all about 10 persons representing the various aircraft companies: DeHavilland, Marcel Dassault, Rolls Royce, and other companies from which we purchase these aeroplanes or the engines. Some of them are deputed by the companies free of charge and some have to be paid according to the terms and conditions decided upon mutually.

Shri Velayudhan: May I know whether the two engineers now working were holding very junior positions in the aeronautical line in the U.K.?

Shri Satish Chandra: I am not aware. Government tries to ascertain that the persons so deputed are suitable for the job.

NATIONAL PLAN LOAN

*236. **Shri Barman:** Will the Minister of **Finance** be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount so far raised on account of the National Plan Loan, stating also the amounts raised in the individual States;

(b) the total amount raised so far under the National Plan Certificates and the amounts raised in the individual States; and

(c) the proportion in which the total amount so raised would be appropriated by the States and the Centre in their respective schemes and projects?

The Minister of Finance (Shri C. D. Deshmukh): (a) The total subscriptions to the National Plan Loan upto the 21st August, 1954 amounted to Rs. 131·28 crores. A statement showing the amount of subscription tendered in each State, which does not necessarily represent the amount raised in each, is laid on the Table. [*See* Appendix III, annexure No. 3.]

(b) The total collections on sale of National Plan Certificates amounted to Rs. 194 lakhs upto the 14th August, 1954. Figures of sales Statewise are not available.

(c) Out of the proceeds of the Loan a sum of Rs. 25½ crores will be handed over to the States as their share of the combined loan and the balance retained by the Centre. The amount paid to the States represents the sum which in the judgment of the Reserve Bank they would have been able to raise in the open market this year, had they floated their own loans.

Shri Barman: Has the hon. Minister's attention been directed to the great disparity in the loans raised in Bombay and West Bengal? Has he enquired into causes why so small an amount has been raised from West Bengal, comparatively?

Shri C. D. Deshmukh: That depends upon the subscriptions from the various institutions and their headquarters. Sometimes the headquarters may be in Bombay or sometimes the institutions may prefer a part of this Loan to be shown against their office in Bombay, rather than in any other State.

Shri Barman: May I know what are the means of publicity resorted to by the Government in order to popularise the National Plan Certificates so far as the rural areas are concerned?

Shri C. D. Deshmukh: We have got a separate National Small Savings organisation. That is assisted by the Women's Savings Campaign.

Shri Bansal: May I know how much of this Loan has been subscribed by institutional investors and how much by individual investors, and whether it has been brought to the notice of the Government that in certain places Government officials have gone round and collected donations instead of loans and made over these donations to certain banks, who, in their turn, have increased the amount of their interest and subscribed to the Loan?

Shri C. D. Deshmukh: I have got a break-up according to the amount of subscriptions:

Subscriptions up to Rs. 5000	55,000 persons	Rs. 4½ crores.
Subscriptions over Rs. 5,000 up to Rs. 25,000	4,250 persons	Rs. 5½ crores.
Subscriptions over Rs. 25,000 up to Rs. 1 lakh or institutions	1,700 persons	Rs. 10 crores.
Subscriptions over Rs. 1 lakh	655 persons or institutions	The rest of the amount Rs. 111 crore.

The particular expedient of collecting loans to which the hon. Member has referred, has come to our notice and we have drawn the attention of the State Governments to that, so that it may not be repeated.

Shri Bansal: May I know which of the States are the greatest culprits in this matter?

Shri C. D. Deshmukh: It would not be right to say that. I would ask the hon. Member not to insist on an answer to a question like this.

Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha: May I know if the Government is aware of the fact that the response from rural areas is very discouraging and can he assure us that specific steps were taken as soon as the National Plan Certificates were introduced, to see that loans from rural areas may be encouraged?

Shri C. D. Deshmukh: I cannot say that the response has been discouraging. So far as the amounts are concerned, perhaps it is. But, many of

these small subscriptions are undoubtedly from the rural areas. The States have directed their official organisations towards the work of collecting subscriptions for the Loan, sometimes in the shape of a drive for 15 days or three weeks and sometimes continuously. I believe that many States have done all that they can although I am not satisfied that in every State the organisation is satisfactory.

सेना-फार्मों में गोवध

*२३८. **सेठ गोविन्द दास :** क्या रक्षा मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) जून, १९५३ से जून, १९५४ तक सेना-फार्म नामकुम, रांचीमें कितने नवजात बछड़ों की हत्या की गई तथा कितनी गायों को बीमारी के कारण मार दिया गया; और

(ख) इसी समय में भारत के सभी सेना-फार्मों में ऐसे विक्रय तथा वध की कुल संख्या कितनी थी ?

The Deputy Minister of Defence (Sardar Majithia): (a) No cows or calves were slaughtered or destroyed at the Namkum Military Farm during the period in question.

(b) (i) 5,595 calves were sold or given away free of cost of breeders.

(ii) 1,332 uneconomical cows and buffaloes or those suffering from contagious abortion were sold.

(iii) On humanitarian grounds as well as in the larger interests of the cattle wealth of the country, it has been the practice to painlessly destroy such of the cattle as are suffering from infectious and incurable diseases. Such cases for the period June 1953 to June 1954 were few, consisting of 4 calves (2 cows and 2 buffaloes) and 104 cattle consisting of 38 cows and 66 buffaloes. However, Government have decided to establish *Gau Sadans* for the maintenance of such cattle till their natural death. These animals in future will be sent to *Gau Sadans* which may be established in the States.

सेठ गोविन्द दास : अभी माननीय मंत्री ने कहा कि पांच हजार के करीब बछड़े बेचे गये, इस एक वर्ष के अन्दर, इन पांच हजार बछड़ों में कितने कसाईयों को बेचे गये, इसके क्या कोई अंक हैं ?

Sardar Majithia: As I said in my answer, if the hon. Member had only followed, they were sold to the breeders.

सेठ गोविन्द दास : क्या यह बात सत्य नहीं हैं कि ये बछड़े पालने वालों को न बेचे जाकर ज्यादातर कसाइयों को बेचे गये हैं और एक दिन की उम्र तक के बछड़े भी बेचे गये हैं ?

Sardar Majithia: Not to the information of the Government. I categorically said they were sold to the breeders. If the breeders in turn sold them to somebody else, the Government have got no information.

सेठ गोविन्द दास : यह जो बछड़े बेचे गये पांच हजार के करीब, उनमें से ज्यादातर कितनी उम्र के बछड़े बेचे गये ?

Sardar Majithia: The policy at the moment is that upto thirty days they are reared free of cost, after which if the person who takes them over wishes the Government to rear them for any period longer, then they are reared but at the cost of the purchaser, uptil thirty days nothing is charged.

Seth Govind Das *rose—*

Mr. Speaker: Next question. Mr. Dabhi.

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION EXAMINATIONS

*239. **Shri Dabhi:** Will the Minister of **Home Affairs** be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are considering the proposal to hold the Union Public Service Commission examinations in Hindi and regional languages besides English; and

(b) if so, from which year the contemplated change is likely to be effected?

The Deputy Minister of Home Affairs (Shri Datar): (a) and (b). The question of associating Hindi and the other regional languages in progressively greater measure with the Competitive Examinations is actively under the consideration of Government. No decision has, however, been taken so far.

Shri Datar: What is meant by "association"?

Shri Datar: "Association" means having more papers in Hindi and making Hindi the medium of examination.

Shri Dabhi: For all the papers?

Shri Datar: Most of the papers.

BASIC EDUCATION

*240. **Shri Jhulan Sinha:** Will the Minister of **Education** be pleased to state:

(a) the extent to which Basic Education in India has succeeded in achieving self-sufficiency; and

(b) whether it is a fact that the State Governments are generally not in a position to make adequate arrangements for Lands, Equipments etc., for the basic education institutions?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Education (Dr. M. M. Das): (a) Basic Education has not been able to achieve self-sufficiency to any appreciable extent.

(b) It is obvious that certain special arrangements have to be provided for schools run on the Basic pattern which are not necessary in the case of ordinary schools. For this reason the State Governments have not been able to achieve as much progress in this field as was desirable. However, every effort is being made to overcome the difficulties.

Shri Jhulan Sinha: May I know if the Government is aware that the failure to achieve self-sufficiency in basic education is due to the lack of land and equipment to be provided to these schools?

Dr. M. M. Das: I have said that some special arrangements have to be made for basic schools which are not necessary for ordinary schools, and this has been one of the causes why basic education has not progressed in the States as it would be desirable.

Shri N. M. Lingam: May I know if the State Governments have been able to avail of the grants placed at their disposal by the Central Government for the extension of basic education?

Dr. M. M. Das: Yes, Sir. Some of them have availed of the grants given by the Central Government.

Shri Jhulan Sinha: May I know if the Government is aware that this lack of land and equipment in the institutions has led to a good deal of fraud and corruption as the students and the staff contribute from their own pockets instead of raising the same from the lands and equipment of these institutions?

Dr. M. M. Das: These schools are established and managed by the State Governments. So, the Central Government has got no information about these detailed matters.

श्री एम० एल० द्विवेदी : मैं यह जानना चाहता हूं कि बेसिक स्कूल और मल्टी पर्पज स्कूल खोलने से जूनियर स्टेज और प्राइमरी स्टेज में जो दो किस्म की शिक्षा का प्रादुर्भाव हमारे देश में हो गया है उस के सम्बन्ध में दो तरह के इन्स्टीट्यूशन्स चलाने की सरकारी नीति क्या है और उस का क्या फल होगा ?

Dr. M. M. Das: It is frightening even to contemplate the existence or the creation of two parallel systems of education in the country. So far as the basic system of education is concerned, it has been accepted as the national pattern of education by the Central Government and the State Governments, and in time we hope that, when the financial stringency is non-existent and other difficulties are removed, all the primary

schools in the country would be converted into basic schools. So, I think there is not the apprehension mentioned by the hon. Member.

Shri Heda *rose—*

Mr. Speaker: Next question.

DISPLACED PERSONS IN ANDAMANS

*241. **Shri Krishnacharya Joshi:** Will the Minister of **Home Affairs** be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of East Bengal displaced persons who have been rehabilitated in Andamans till July 1954; and

(b) what facilities are provided to them there?

The Deputy Minister of Home Affairs (Shri Datar): (a) 3,421.

(b) They are allotted agricultural land, land for homestead and for growing fruit and vegetables. Financial assistance is given to meet cost of passage from the Indian mainland to the Andamans, construction of a hutment, purchase of plough animals and implements and for maintenance till the harvesting of the first crop. No land revenue is recovered during the initial period of settlement.

Shri Krishnacharya Joshi: May I know how many more displaced persons are to be rehabilitated in the near future?

Shri Datar: During the next five years about 4,000 families are going to be sent to the Andamans.

Shri Krishnacharya Joshi: Is this financial assistance in the form of a loan?

Shri Datar: Yes. It is in the form of a loan to be repaid in easy instalments.

Shri Krishnacharya Joshi: Is any interest charged?

Shri Datar: A very small amount of interest is charged.

Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad: What is the number of acres, either cleared or forest, that is being given to these persons who are settled in the Andamans?

Shri Datar: That is what has been pointed out—five acres of agricultural land and five acres of non-agricultural land for homestead etc.

Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad: May I know if the Government is aware that when some Members visited the Andamans last, it was complained that they are given only five acres of cleared land and not the five acres of non-agricultural land which is simply on paper?

Shri Datar: I am not aware of this complaint. I shall make enquiries into it.

SHROFF COMMITTEE

*242. **Shri Nanadas:** Will the Minister of **Finance** be pleased to state whether Government have accepted the recommendations of the Shroff Committee on Finance for the Private Sector?

The Deputy Minister of Finance (Shri A. C. Guha): The Shroff Committee's recommendations require action not by the Government of India alone but by various other authorities like the State Governments, the Reserve Bank of India, the Industrial Finance Corporation, banks and banking associations, chambers of Commerce, indigenous bankers, etc. The Reserve Bank of India has already given effect to some of the recommendations. The remaining recommendations are being examined by the Government and other appropriate authorities.

Shri Nanadas: To what recommendations have the Government of India given effect?

Shri A. C. Guha: The Reserve Bank has given effect to some of the recommendations, as for example, the bill market system and some other things. That is, I think, one of the most important recommendations. I think it is rather too early as yet to finalise our decision on such a complicated matter.

Shri Tulsidas: May I know what action Government propose to take to overcome factors inhibiting investment in the private sector?

Shri A. C. Guha: All the recommendations tend to that. I cannot give any specific reply unless the final decision on these recommendations has been taken by the Government.

Shri Bansal: In the course of the reply the hon. Minister stated that the Government of India have already taken action on some of the recommendations. May I know on what recommendations the Government of India have taken action?

Shri A. C. Guha: I am sorry he has not followed my answer correctly. It is only the Reserve Bank that has given effect to some of the recommendations.

Shri Bansal: If he will read the answer, he will find that he did say so.

Mr. Speaker: Order, order.

Shri Tulsidas: May I know if the Shroff Committee has recommended that an expert committee should be appointed to see what measures it is possible to take to reduce the burden of operating costs on the banks?

Shri A. C. Guha: I think the Reserve Bank is considering this matter. The Reserve Bank has sent some letters to the different bodies, to the banks and other concerned bodies.

TRAINING IN FOREIGN INSTITUTIONS

***243. Pandit D. N. Tiwary:** Will the Minister of **Education** be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in several cases persons sent abroad for special training under various educational schemes have been employed on works other than those in which they received special training; and

(b) if so, the number of such cases?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Education (Dr. M. M. Das): (a) Yes.

(b) Five, as far as is known.

Pandit D. N. Tiwary: May I know how many were sent during the last two years?

Dr. M. M. Das: The figure is not at present with me.

Pandit D. N. Tiwary: May I know for which subjects these five persons were sent for training and in what Departments they were taken in?

Dr. M. M. Das: There are five scholars who were sent abroad and who have not been employed in jobs pertaining to their studies in foreign countries. Am I to read the details of these five scholars?

Mr. Speaker: I think this question was raised during the last week also in some supplementaries.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: That was about medical studies, not general.

Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha: May I know how many persons were sent for the study of public administration and whether any of them has been employed in public administration?

Dr. M. M. Das: The question relates to those scholars who have not been employed in the subjects they studied. All these details I have not got with me.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: Public administration is a subject in itself.

Pandit D. N. Tiwary: Since there are only five names, it will not be difficult to mention the subjects in which they were trained, and where they have been employed.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Member wants to know only the subjects, and not the names of the individuals?

Pandit D. N. Tiwary: No, I do not want the names.

Dr. M. M. Das: One scholar was trained in mechanical engineering machine tools (manufacturing side).

He has been employed as Civilian Mechanical Engineer on Rs. 350 p.m. under the Chief Superintendent of Development (Vehicles), Ahmednagar (Ministry of Defence).

The second scholar was trained in chemistry, leather technology, for the M.S. degree from the Lehigh University, Bethelhem. He has been employed as an Assistant Inspector of Explosives, under the Ministry of Works, Housing and Supply.

The third scholar was trained in food technology and bacteriology of food, for the M.S. degree from the University of California. Government could not provide him a suitable job.

The fourth scholar was trained in horticulture and vegetable physiology, for the M.S. degree from the Ohio State University, U.S.A. He has been employed as an Economic Investigator on Rs. 200 p.m. in the scale, Rs. 160-10-330.

The fifth scholar was trained in agriculture, plant breeding and geneties, for the M.Sc. degree from the Cambridge University. He is employed on Rs. 1300 p.m. in the Burmah Shell.

Several Hon. Members *rose*—

Mr. Speaker: I am not proposing to go into further details on this question.

Dr. M. M. Das: I have something more to add. I may submit that these five cases belong to the category of scholars who were sent abroad under the old overseas scholarship scheme, which was in existence during the period 1945-48. For the last three years, nobody is being sent, who is not employed. These cases relate to the old scheme which was in force during the period 1945-48.

Several Hon. Members *rose*—

Mr. Speaker: No more supplementaries on this. Let us go to the next question.

AMERICAN AID

*244. **Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha:** Will the Minister of **Finance** be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount of American Aid that India would receive during the year 1954-55; and

(b) whether such aid will also include the supply of agricultural commodities?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Finance (Shri B. R. Bhagat): (a) No intimation has yet been received in regard to the assistance that may be authorised for 1954-55.

(b) Does not arise.

Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha: In connection with part (a) of the question, may I know whether Government are aware of the numerous reports appearing in the papers that some locomotives under this economic and technical aid are going to be received by the Government of India?

Shri B. R. Bhagat: That may be for the past commitments, not for this year, i.e. 1954-55.

Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha: Are we to understand that Government have no data in regard to the six months that have elapsed in 1954-55?

Shri B. R. Bhagat: The question refers to the assistance for 1954-55. As we read in the papers, the Senate has authorised it, but no details have come to us so far. If the hon. Member wants information as regards the previous years, 1952-53 or 1953-54, then she may table separate questions. But generally, I can say that we have received assistance in regard to the rehabilitation of our railways...

Mr. Speaker: She does not want information about the past. She wants to know about 1954-55.

Pandit Munishwar Datt Upadhyay: Is it a fact that the U.S.A. is now going to have an Economic Aids Wing attached to the Manila Conference, so as to include India and other Colombo

Powers into it? What is our attitude in that matter?

Shri B. R. Bhagat: I think it is too general a question, and also much beyond the scope of this question.

PULLING DOWN OF HISTORICAL MONUMENTS

*245. **Shri Nageshwar Prasad Sinha:** Will the Minister of **Education** be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that many of the Historical Monuments in Delhi have been pulled down or damaged during the past few months; and

(b) if so, which of them have been pulled down or damaged and why?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Education (Dr. M. M. Das): (a) and (b). No protected monument has been pulled down.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: What about historical monuments? The hon. Parliamentary Secretary stated only about protected monuments. May we know whether no historical monuments have been pulled down?

Mr. Speaker: How can he say about that? If it is not protected, he will not have the information about it with him.

Dr. Rama Rao: But the question relates to historical monuments.

Mr. Speaker: Next question.

SMUGGLED GOLD

*246. **Shri K. C. Sodhia:** Will the Minister of **Finance** be pleased to state:

(a) the total quantity of smuggled gold confiscated during 1952 and 1953; and

(b) the use to which Government propose to put this gold and when?

The Deputy Minister of Finance (Shri A. C. Guha): (a) The quantity of gold confiscated by the Customs authorities during the calendar years 1952 and 1953 was 55,409 tolas and 21,770 tolas respectively.

(b) It is not proposed to sell the gold in the market. No decision regarding the use to which the confiscated gold is to be put, has been as yet arrived at.

Shri K. C. Sodhia: May I know how much was originally hauled up, and subsequently released?

Shri A. C. Guha: I think only a very small portion has been released, and that release also was made in lieu of the fine imposed on that gold. Only a small percentage has been released, because in most cases, the fine is more than the actual price of the gold.

Shri K. C. Sodhia: How much of this was confiscated on the foreign pocket borders?

Shri A. C. Guha: That break-up I have not got with me.

Shri Amjad Ali: May I know whether in addition to the confiscation, these smugglers were prosecuted under the Foreign Exchange Regulation Act also?

Shri A. C. Guha: All this gold has been confiscated under the Foreign Exchange Regulation Act, of course, all necessary action have been taken by the Customs and Central Excise people.

HINDI EQUIVALENTS OF ENGLISH TERMS

*247. **Shri D. C. Sharma:** Will the Minister of **Education** be pleased to state:

(a) whether a glossary of various English terms with their Hindi equivalents is being printed in Devanagri script by Government;

(b) if so, the subjects to which these terms relate; and

(c) when this publication will be available for sale to the public?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Education (Dr. M. M. Das): (a) and (b). Lists of technical terms relating to Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry, Botany and Social Sciences for Secondary schools are ready and will soon be published giving Hindi

equivalents in Devanagari script. Similar lists relating to some other sciences are under preparation.

(c) The lists for the various subjects will be made available to the public as and when these are finalised and published: the dates will vary from subject to subject.

Shri D. C. Sharma: May I know what other subjects are being dealt with by the Ministry, so far as the preparation of Hindi equivalents is concerned?

Dr. M. M. Das: The subjects that have been taken up for this purpose are mathematics, agriculture, physics, botany, geology, zoology, medicine, engineering, social sciences, administration, chemistry, defence services, posts and telegraphs, external affairs, finance, railways and transport.

Shri D. C. Sharma: May I know the method adopted to finalise the vocabulary that is made available in Hindi?

Dr. M. M. Das: The Board of Scientific Terminology has formulated some principles, and these are taken into consideration by the committees that prepare these lists. Shall I go on with them?

شکشہ و پزاکرتک سلسادھن تتھا ویگیانک گویشنا ملتری - (مولانا آزاد) :

میں آنریبل میمبر کو بتا دوں کہ بورڈ نے جو ڈھنگ اختیار کیا ہے وہ کیا ہے کہ انہوں نے ہر سبجیکٹ کے لئے الگ سب کمیٹیاں بنا دی ہیں - وہ ٹرمس تیار کرتی ہیں - پھر وہ جنرل باڈی کے سامنے آتی ہیں - جنرل باڈی ان پر غور کرتی ہے - اِسکے بعد ان کو چھاپ کر یونیورسٹیز - اسٹیٹ گورنمنٹس اور مختلف سوسائٹیوں کو بھیجا جاتا ہے - اور ان کی رائے مانگی جاتی ہے - ان کی رائے جب آ جاتی ہے تو پھر جنرل باڈی اس پر غور کرتی ہے - پھر اس کے بعد وہ کمیٹی کے سامنے جاتی ہیں -

[**The Minister of Education and Natural Resources and Scientific Research (Maulana Azad):** I would like to inform the hon. Member that the method adopted by the Board is that they have made separate Sub-Committees for each subject which prepare terms. All those terms come up before the General Body for consideration. After being considered, these terms are published and sent to Universities, State Governments and various societies. Their opinion is asked for and when it is received, the General Body takes them into consideration. After all this, the terms come up before the Cabinet.]

सेठ गोविन्द दास : सोशियल साइंसेज के सम्बन्ध में जो ग्लासरी तैयार की गयी है क्या उसमें ऐसे शब्दों में कोई परिवर्तन किया गया है कि जो हमारे संविधान में स्वीकार कर लिए गये हैं ?

مولانا آزاد : نہیں اس سے کوئی تعلق نہیں ہے -

[**Maulana Azad:** No, that bears no relation to this.]

Shri D. C. Sharma: From what the hon. Parliamentary Secretary has stated, I conclude that we have arrived only at the secondary school stage up to this time. May I know how long it will take to arrive at the university stage, the post-graduate stage, and then the general public stage?

مولانا آزاد : یہ کہنا تو مشکل ہے - ظاہر ہے کہ کافی وقت لگیگا - پہلے ان کو اسکول کا اسٹیج طے کرنا تھا - اس کے بعد یونیورسٹی کو لیلگے - کوشش کی

جا رہی ہے کہ جلد سے جلد یہ کام ختم ہو -

[**Maulana Azad:** It is difficult to say how much time it will take, but it is so apparent that it needs a long time. They have to arrive at the school stage first and then the university stage. Every effort is being made to finish the work very soon.]

राष्ट्रीय सेनाछात्र दल

*२४८. **श्री नवल प्रभाकर** : क्या रक्षा मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या राष्ट्रीय छात्रसेना दल ने गत वर्ष की भांति इस वर्ष भी दिल्ली की किसी सामुदायिक योजना में कुछ सहायता की;

(ख) यदि हां, तो उन्होंने कैसा काम किया; और

(ग) यह सहायता कितने समय तक दी गई थी ?

The Deputy Minister of Defence (Shri Satish Chandra): (a) Yes, in the Alipore Community Project Area.

(b) A 3½ miles long fair weather road was constructed from Barwala to Karala.

(c) 10th to 30th May, 1945.

श्री नवल प्रभाकर : क्या मैं जान सकता हूं कि कैम्प के दिनों में नेशनल कैडेट कोर के लोगों को क्या-क्या सुविधायें दी जाती हैं ?

श्री सतीश चन्द्र : एन० सी० सी० के कैडेट्स के कैम्प में रहने के समय सरकार उनके खाने, कपड़े और रहने का सारा प्रबन्ध करती है । आनरेबिल सदस्य ने इस तरह के कई कैम्प देखे भी हैं ।

श्री नवल प्रभाकर : क्या मैं जान सकता हूं कि प्रति व्यक्ति प्रति दिन कितना खर्चा आता है ?

श्री सतीश चन्द्र : करीब ढाई रुपया फी कैडेट फी रोज खर्च आता है ।

श्री नवल प्रभाकर : क्या मैं जान सकता हूं कि जब डेढ़ पौने दो रुपये पर मजदूर मिलते हैं तो इनसे क्यों काम लिया जाता है ?

Mr. Speaker: He is carrying on an argument.

Sardar A. S. Saigal: May I put a question?

Mr. Speaker: Next question.

Partial Financial Assistance Scheme

*250. **Shri Bahadur Singh:** Will the Minister of **Education** be pleased to state:

(a) the number of students who have been given loans for passage only under the Partial Financial Assistance Scheme since the 1st January, 1954;

(b) the total amount of loan advanced under this scheme during this period; and

(c) whether any recoveries of the principal and the interest on the loan advanced in previous years have been effected?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Education (Dr. M. M. Das): (a) 10 (Ten).

(b) Rs. 18,260/- (Rupees eighteen thousand, two hundred and sixty only).

(c) Yes.

Shri Bahadur Singh: May I know what was the total number of applicants? Were there any cases in which assistance could not be afforded under the scheme on account of paucity of funds, though they deserved such assistance?

Dr. M. M. Das: The total number of scholars who have been given this loan is, as I have said, ten. In addition, loans to twelve students amounting approximately to Rs. 23,166 have been approved subject to a report from the State Governments, about the financial condition of the guardians as required in the rules. The sanction has not been issued as

reports from the State Governments are awaited. Six applications have been rejected as they did not satisfy the conditions.

Shri Bahadur Singh: May I know what is the procedure that is adopted for awarding these concessions?

Dr. M. M. Das: What is the question? I could not follow.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: On what basis are the scholars awarded these concessions?

Dr. M. M. Das: They will have to be repaid by the scholars according to the following condition: The scholars have to repay these loans with interest after six months of their arrival in India or from the date of employment, whichever happens to be earlier.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: My hon. friend wants to know the basis of the assistance.

Dr. M. M. Das: The Partial Financial Assistance Scheme may be subdivided into three groups: (1) loans for passage only which are given to students who have secured foreign scholarships, fellowships etc. exclusive of traval expenses but covering all other expenditure including maintenance in a foreign country; (2) loans to students who proceeded abroad under reasonable belief that their guardians would send the money required for their study abroad, but for unforeseen circumstances their guardians failed to send them money; and (3) small amounts of loans sanctioned by the Missions abroad under their emergency powers to students who are in immediate need of money and whose cases cannot be referred to the Government of India because of delay.

Shri Bahadur Singh: During the year 1953-54, a budget provision of Rs. 1,50,000 was made for expenditure under the scheme, but a sum of Rs. 1,00,000 has been provided in the budget for the year 1954-55. What is the reason for this reduction?

Dr. M. M. Das: Why the whole amount was not utilised?

Mr. Speaker: Why a reduction is made in this year's budget?

Dr. M. M. Das: Because there were not sufficient number of applicants in the year 1953-54.

National Income

***251. Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy:** Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have collected the relevant data about National Income to measure the effect of the developmental projects under the Five Year Plan; and

(b) if so, what is the percentage of increase in the National Income during the last three years?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Finance (Shri B. R. Bhagat): (a) Government have been compiling and publishing national income estimates. The final Report of the National Income Committee gave estimates of national income for the years, 1948-49 to 1950-51. Estimates for the year 1951-52 have since been prepared on similar lines and they are expected to be ready for release shortly. It is, however, not possible to isolate from these estimates the contribution to national income made directly by the development projects under the Five Year Plan.

(b) According to these estimates, the increase in the national income during 1951-52, as compared with 1950-51, was of the order of 4·8 per cent. If the figures are reduced to real terms by elimination of the effect of price changes, the increase during 1951-52 would be 3½ per cent. The data for 1952-53, which are not yet complete, would suggest an acceleration in the rate of increase of real national income during 1952-53.

Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy: May I know whether any statistical estimate has been made already regarding the national income after the Five Year Plan?

Shri B. R. Bhagat: After the Five Year Plan? These figures are for 1948-49 to 1950-51.

The Minister of Finance (Shri C. D. Deshmukh): I believe the expectation of the Planning Commission was that national income would be found to have increased by 10 per cent. at the end of the Plan period.

Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy: May I know whether any estimate has been made regarding the increased *per capita* income as compared to the national income?

Shri C. D. Deshmukh: You cannot compare *per capita* income to national income, unless the hon. Member means the ratio between increased national income and the increased population.

Shri Meghnad Saha: May I know if the Government have kept any account of the index of inflation during the same period?

Shri C. D. Deshmukh: When we say that these national income figures have been adjusted in the light of price changes, I think that is saying the same thing as what the hon. Member says, namely, allowing for the effects of inflation.

Shri Nanadas: May I know the reasons for not compiling and publishing relevant data regarding the years 1952-53 and 1953-54?

Shri C. D. Deshmukh: This is being done; this is always done in arrears.

RETIRING AGE OF DEFENCE OFFICERS

***252. Th. Lakshman Singh Charak:** Will the Minister of **Defence** be pleased to state:

(a) the retiring age for the regular officers of the Defence Services and the extent to which the rule in this regard is being observed; and

(b) for what periods acting promotions in the army are made?

The Deputy Minister of Defence (Sardar Majithia): (a) A statement is placed on the Table of the House. [*See* Appendix III, annexure No. 4.]

(b) An officer retains his acting rank while officiating continuously in a post carrying that rank or until attaining that rank substantively.

Th. Lakshman Singh Charak: May I know the retiring age of civilians in the Defence Services?

Sardar Majithia: For the information of the Member, it is 55, but it hardly arises out of this question.

Th. Lakshman Singh Charak: May I know what are the difficulties in the way of retiring Majors at the age of 45 when there is already a block in promotion?

Sardar Majithia: Some of the officers of that rank have to be retained in service because the services demand it. Unfortunately, at the moment, there is a block; but they have not got enough experience to go further up. Till that experience is gained, that block will the there. Besides, you have to balance the service.

FOREIGN MISSIONARIES

***255. Shri Raghunath Singh:** Will the Minister of **Home Affairs** be pleased to state:

(a) the number of foreign Christian missionary ladies who entered India during 1951, 1952, 1953 and so far during 1954; and

(b) the number among them who are working in missionary hospitals and schools?

The Deputy Minister of Home Affairs (Shri Datar): (a) and (b). Information as to the number of foreign Christian Missionary ladies who arrived in India in any given period is not available. However, a statement showing the number of such persons for whom visas were authorized during 1951, 1952, 1953 and upto the 15th August 1954 is laid on the Table of the House. [*See* Appendix III, annexure No. 5.]

The Statement also shows the number working in missionary hospitals and schools.

श्री रघुनाथ सिंह : उसमें अमरीकन लोगों की क्या तादाद होगी, अमरीकन स्त्रियां जो आईं, उनकी तादाद क्या होगी ?

Shri Datar: I did not follow the question.

Mr. Speaker: What is the number of American missionaries?

Shri Datar: I have not got the break-up.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: May I know whether the missionaries expelled out of China have come over to India and are in charge of some missions here?

The Minister of Home Affairs and States (Dr. Katju): I want notice of the question.

Mr. Speaker: Next question.

NATIONAL DEFENCE ACADEMY, KHADAKVASLA

*256. **Shri Jethalal Joshi:** Will the Minister of **Defence** be pleased to state the number of trainees for whom accommodation will be provided at the National Defence Academy at Khadakvasla?

The Deputy Minister of Defence (Sardar Majithia): The National Defence Academy at Khadakvasla has been planned to accommodate about 1500 trainees.

Shri Jethalal Joshi: May I know what is the cost of the construction work so far incurred and how much more will be incurred to finish the work?

Sardar Majithia: When it was originally started, the total cost of this project was Rs. 5·87 crores . Due to the rise in the cost of materials, it went up to Rs. 6·45 crores, that is, an addition of 58 lakhs: but this figure is being cut down by reducing certain non-essential items.

Shri Jethalal Joshi: May I know whether instruction in all the three Wings will be given there?

Sardar Majithia: The Joint Services Wing will impart instruction to all the three Wings for the first three years. And, in the last year, they will naturally go for their special training in their own Wings.

Shri Anandchand: May I know what Government propose to do with the buildings that exist at present?

Sardar Majithia: It hardly arises out of this. But, I may say for the information of the House that these are temporary buildings and I can assure the hon. Members that they will be put to the maximum use that we can put them to.

ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों में शिक्षा

*२५७. **श्री दिगंबर सिंह :** क्या शिक्षा मंत्री ६ अप्रैल, १९५४ को पूछे गये तारांकित प्रश्न संख्या १६१३ के उत्तर के सम्बन्ध में यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या तब से सरकार ने ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों में शिक्षा-प्रसार के लिये कोई निर्णय किया है; और

(ख) यदि हां, तो इस विषय में अन्तिम निर्णय क्या है ?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Education (Dr. M. M. Das): (a) The starred question referred to by the Hon'ble Member related to the question of establishment of Institutes of Higher Education in rural areas as recommended by the University Education Commission. In pursuance of this the Ministry in co-operation with the Ford Foundation has set up a committee to undertake a careful study and appraisal of promising ideas, institutions and experiments in the field. As regards expansion of education in rural areas, the matter is the concern of the State Governments.

(b) Does not arise.

श्री दिगम्बर सिंह : क्या मैं जान सकता हूं कि जो कमेटी नियुक्त की गई है उस की रिपोर्ट कब तक तैयार हो जायेगी ?

Dr. M. M. Das: Sir, I think, within the coming few months we will have the report of this Committee.

श्री दिगम्बर सिंह : इस सम्बन्ध में सरकार देहाती क्षेत्रों में कितना खर्च करना चाहती है ?

Dr. M. M. Das: The whole expenses will be met by the Ford Foundation who have ear-marked ten thousand dollers for this purpose.

Shri Krishnacharya Joshi: How many schools and colleges are functioning today?

Dr. M. M. Das: The figure is not at my disposal.

LOAN TO ANDHRA

*259. **Shri Buchhikotaiah:** Will the Minister of **Finance** be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Central Government have offered a loan assistance of Rupees 920 lakhs to the Andhra State for development schemes; and

(b) whether it is a fact that the Andhra Government have been advised not to seek recourse to public loans of their own especially when this amount would be made available to them?

The Minister of Finance (Shri C. D. Deshmukh): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Since the National Plan loan floated by the Government of India covers the requirements of both the States and the Centre, the State Governments were advised not to float any public loan separately during the current year. Out of the proceeds of the National Plan Loan, Andhra will receive Rs. 2·5 crores which will be in addition to the assistance of Rs. 920 lakhs mentioned in part (a) of the Question.

Shri Nanadas: May I know the terms on which the loan assistance was offered?

Shri C. D. Deshmukh: The usual terms on which State Governments are advanced loans by the Central Government every year. It is a little higher than the rate which the Central Government has to pay for its own loans.

Shri Nanadas: What is the rate of interest?

Shri C. D. Deshmukh: That varies from year to year and it also varies according to the period for which the loan is advanced.

Shri Raghuramaiah: May I know whether this loan is general or any specific portion of it is ear-marked for any specific purpose as far as the Andhra is concerned?

Shri C. D. Deshmukh: Part of the loan for covering ways and means difficulties and part for the implementation of the Plan.

Shri Buchhikotaiah: May I know what amount has been given till now.

Shri C. D. Deshmukh: I shall require notice of the question.

SCHEDULED CASTES AND SCHEDULED TRIBES IN GOVERNMENT SERVICES

*260. **Shri Ramananda Das:** Will the Minister of **Home Affairs** be pleased to state:

(a) whether employment of persons belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes is being made against vacancies according to the ratio fixed by Government; and

(b) if not, the action taken by Government to give adequate representation to the members of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes?

The Deputy Minister of Home Affairs (Shri Datar): (a) and (b). Yes, subject to the availability of suitable candidates belonging to these communities.

Shri Ramananda Das: May I know whether adequate representation in the services is not secured due to the indifferent attitude of the Selection

Boards, and, will the Government consider the possibility of including at least one Scheduled Caste member in the Union Public Service Commission and the State Public Service Commissions and other selection bodies?

Shri Datar: I do not accept the suggestion that there is any indifference on the part of the selection bodies, and the other question does not arise.

Shri Thimmaiah: May I know whether it is possible for the Government to place before the House a statement of the appointments made by the various Ministries during the past three years and the number of reserved vacancies for Scheduled Castes and the number of appointments actually made of such candidates?

Shri Datar: I shall be very glad to give all the information if the hon. Member puts up a separate question.

RESEARCH SCHOLARSHIP IN HUMANITIES

*262. **Shri Veeraswamy:** Will the Minister of **Education** be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of scholarships to be awarded in 1954-55 for Research in Humanities and the amount allotted for this purpose;

(b) whether applications have been invited recently in this connection;

(c) if so, the total number of applications received and the number of scholarships awarded; and

(d) the number of scholarships out of them given to the Scheduled Caste candidates?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Education (Dr. M. M. Das): (a) and (b). A copy of the Press Note issued by Government on 8th May 1954 giving the required information is placed on the Table of the House. [See Appendix III, annexure No. 6.]

(c) 192 applications for scholarships have been received and are still under consideration.

(d) Does not arise.

FERTILIZER-*cum*-CEMENT FACTORY (PUNJAB)

*263. **Shri Ram Dass:** Will the Minister of **Finance** be pleased to state:

(a) whether Punjab Government have asked the Government of India for any aid or loan for starting a Fertilizer-*cum*-Cement Factory in that State; and

(b) if so, the amount that has been sanctioned by the Government of India by way of loan or grant in this connection?

The Deputy Minister of Finance (Shri M. C. Shah): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

ORDNANCE FACTORIES

*264. **Shri M. L. Agrawal:** Will the Minister of **Defence** be pleased to state:

(a) the number of new Ordnance factories constructed in U.P. during the last war;

(b) whether it is a fact that at present they are not being used for any purpose; and

(c) whether Government intend to hand them over to the U. P. Government for utilizing them for the purpose of industrial development in that State?

The Deputy Minister of Defence (Shri Satish Chandra): (a) Five new Ordnance Factories were set up in U.P. during the last war.

(b) All these factories are being used for the purpose for which they were originally planned.

(c) Does not arise.

Shri M. L. Agrawal: May I know the places where these factories are located?

Shri Satish Chandra: The factories are situated at Kanpur, Muradnagar and Dehra Dun.

सरदार ए० एस० सहगल : क्या मैं जान सकता हूं कि जो आर्डनेन्स फैक्ट्रीज यू० पी० में हैं और जो कि लड़ाई के बाद बनाई गई हैं वह फुल कपैसिटी पर वर्क कर रही हैं ?

श्री सतीश चन्द्र : उन में से एक भी लड़ाई के बाद नहीं बनाई गई हैं, यह सब लड़ाई के दौरान में ही बनाई गई थीं ।

सरदार ए० एस० सहगल : जो लड़ाई के दौरान में बनाई गई हैं वह फुल कपैसिटी पर वर्क कर रही हैं ?

श्री सतीश चन्द्र : उन फैक्ट्रियों पर काफी काम हैं, और अगर कहीं पर काम की कमी हैं तो वहां दूसरी चीजें बनाने की कोशिश की जा रही हैं ।

उद्योगों के विकास के लिये निगम

*२६५. **श्री एम० एल० द्विवेदी :** क्या **वित्त** मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) भारत में उद्योगों के विकास के लिये विदेशी सहायता से स्थापित होने वाले प्रस्तावित निगम की रूपरेखा क्या है;

(ख) इसकी अंश-रचना तथा उन शर्तों का ब्यौरा क्या है, जिनके अधीन ऋण दिये जायेंगे; और

(ग) इन ऋणों का उपयोग किन किन उद्योगों के विकास के लिये होगा ?

वित्तमंत्री श्री सी० डी० देशमुख : (क) प्रस्तावित निगम एक संयुक्त स्कंध प्रमंडल होगा जिस का स्वामित्व तथा प्रबन्ध वैयक्तिक रहेगा । उस में भारत तथा विदेशों से प्रार्थित वैयक्तिक अंश पूंजी के अतिरिक्त यह आशा की जाती हैं कि भारत सरकार द्वारा अग्रिम तथा इंटरनेशनल बैंक फार रिकन्स्ट्रक्शन एंड डेवेलपमेन्ट से ऋण के रूप में संसाधन उपलब्ध हो सकेंगे ।

(ख) अंश रचना का ब्यौरा तैयार किया जा रहा हैं । जिन शर्तों के आधीन ऋण दिया जायेगा उन को स्थापित हो जाने पर निगम स्वयं निश्चित करेगा ।

(ग) सामान्यतः यह आशा की जाती हैं कि निगम वैयक्तिक क्षेत्र में उद्योग तथा औद्योगिक उपक्रमों का प्रवर्तन, उन की स्थापना तथा सहायता करेगा ।

श्री एम० एल० द्विवेदी : मैं जानना चाहता हूं कि इस उद्योग निगम की क्या पूंजी होगी और उस में केन्द्रीय सरकार कितना धन लगायेगी ?

श्री सी० डी० देशमुख : आशा हैं कि उस की मूल धन राशि २५ करोड़ रुपये की होगी ।

श्री एम० एल० द्विवेदी : मैं जानना चाहता हूं कि क्या इस औद्योगिक निगम का निर्माण विभिन्न राज्यों और विशेषज्ञों की सलाह से किया गया हैं ? यदि हां, तो यह कब तक बन कर तैयार हो जायेगा ?

श्री सी० डी० देशमुख : आशा हैं कि यह त्वरित तैयार हो जायेगा ।

श्री एस० एन० दास : क्या इस निगम की स्थापना कानून द्वारा होगी या साधारण तौर से प्रस्ताव के द्वारा ?

श्री सी० डी० देशमुख : किसी विधान की आवश्यकता तो नहीं हैं क्योंकि जो विधान उपस्थित हैं, जिस का नाम कम्पनी ला हैं, उस के अनुसार उस की स्थापना हो जायेगी ।

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

CHILDREN'S LITERATURE

*235. **Shri A. K. Gopalan:** Will the Minister of **Education** be pleased to state:

(a) how far the scheme for the production of children's literature has progressed;

(b) how many books have already been published and by whom;

(c) the rates at which they have been priced;

(d) the rates of remuneration paid to the authors; and

(e) what steps are being taken for popularising them?

The Minister of Education and Natural Resources and Scientific Research (Maulana Azad): (a) An agreement has been signed with the Maktaba Jamia for the publication of 25 children's books in Hindi.

(b) Several mss. are ready and the publication is likely to start in October.

(c) The rates will be fixed when the books are sent to the Press.

(d) The rate of remuneration to the authors will be settled by the Maktaba Jamia themselves.

(e) State Governments have been asked to indicate their requirements and to give their suggestions for popularising the books through school libraries and in other ways.

VICTORIA MEMORIAL HALL, CALCUTTA

*249. **Shri S. C. Samanta:** Will the Minister of **Education** be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that two new galleries are proposed to be opened in the Victoria Memorial Hall, Calcutta;

(b) if so, the cost involved and the special facilities that will accrue;

(c) whether it is a fact that this Memorial was hitherto not governed by the Preservation of Monuments Act; and

(d) if so, for what reasons?

The Minister of Education and Natural Resources and Scientific Research (Maulana Azad): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d). The Victoria Memorial is not governed by the Ancient Monuments Preservation Act, because it is not an ancient monument.

SEIZURE OF GUNS IN TRIPURA

*254. **Shri Dasaratha Deb:** Will the Minister of **States** be pleased to refer to the reply given to unstarred question No. 967 on the 8th April, 1953 and state:

(a) the number of guns belonging to the tribal people of Tripura that are still in the custody of Government; and

(b) when will they be restored?

The Minister of Home Affairs and States (Dr. Katju): (a) 367 Guns.

(b) These arms are being restored after necessary Police verification and compliance with the other provisions of the Rules; efforts are being made to dispose of the pending cases as early as possible.

थर्ड डिवीजन क्लर्कों के वेतन-क्रम

*२५८. **डा० सत्यवादी** : क्या **वित्त** मंत्री १४ मई, १९५४ को पूछे गये तारांकित प्रश्न संख्या २४९७ के उत्तर के सम्बन्ध में यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या थर्ड डिवीजन क्लर्कों के वेतन-क्रमों के पुनरीक्षण के विषय में सरकार ने कुछ अन्तिम निर्णय किया है; और

(ख) यदि नहीं, तो इस विषय के निर्णय में कितना समय लगेगा ?

The Deputy Minister of Finance (Shri M. C. Shah): (a) and (b). No Sir. Government expect to reach a final decision on the question very soon.

COMMUNITY RADIO SETS

*261. **Shri N. Rachiah:** Will the Minister of **Education** be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that community radio-sets have been donated through UNESCO gift coupons to the Bombay City Social Education Committee;

(b) if so, how many radio-sets have been donated; and

(c) whether such gift coupons have been given to any other institutions also in India?

The Minister of Education and Natural Resources and Scientific Research (Maulana Azad): (a) Yes.

(b) 14.

(c) Yes.

STATISTICS REGARDING LOSS OF NATION'S PROPERTY

*266. **Shri S. N. Das:** Will the Minister of **Home Affairs** be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any organisation at the Centre for collecting information as to the amount of annual loss of property both Governmental and private due to fire accidents in the different parts of the country;

(b) if not, whether the necessity of having such an organisation has been considered; and

(c) if so, with what results?

The Minister of Home Affairs and States (Dr. Katju): (a) No;

(b) No;

(c) Does not arise.

JOINT SERVICES WING

*267. **Sardar Hukam Singh:** Will the Minister of **Defence** be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cadets who passed out of the Joint Services Wing in the Indian Military Academy, Dehra Dun during this year; and

(b) the number of cadets out of those referred to in part (a) above who proceeded to specialised training for (i) Army Commissioned officers (ii) Naval Officers' training establishments and (iii) Air Force?

The Deputy Minister of Defence (Sardar Majithia): (a) Two courses pass out from the Joint Services Wing every year. 151 cadets passed out of the Joint Services Wing in June 1954 and the next course will pass out in December, 1954.

(b) The break-up of the 151 cadets who passed out in June 1954 by Services is

(i) Army	103
(ii) Navy	17
(iii) Air Force	31

आर्थिक सहायता

*२६८. **सेठ गोविन्द दास :** क्या वित्त मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि १९५३-५४ में भारत को भेंट के रूप में कुल कितनी विदेशी आर्थिक सहायता प्राप्त हुई थी ?

The Minister of Finance (Shri C. D. Deshmukh): The total value of economic assistance received in India from foreign sources in 1953-54 as a gift was approximately Rs. 18;5 crores.

REHABILITATION OF DISABLED WAR VETERANS

*269. **Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:** Will the Minister of **Defence** be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the World Veterans' Federation has proposed to the Government of India to start a pilot rehabilitation centre for disabled war veterans in Bombay;

(b) if so, what is the nature of that proposal; and

(c) what decision Government have taken in that regard?

The Deputy Minister of Defence (Sardar Majithia): (a) The World Veterans' Federation has made no proposal to the Government of India for starting a pilot rehabilitation centre in Bombay. A reference was, however, received from their Controller by our Military Attache, Indian Embassy, Paris, which contained a request for the use of prosthetic facilities at the Artificial Limb Centre, Poona, for running a short training course. The Army Headquarters did not consider it feasible to undertake a course of international character, as the Artificial Limb Centre at Poona was not large enough for the purpose, as also the personnel and equipment of the Centre were fully occupied with their own commitments.

(b) We have no detailed information about the proposal.

(c) The Government is not seized of any such proposal.

SCHEDULED CASTE SCHOLARSHIPS

*270. **Pandit D. N. Tiwary:** Will the Minister of **Education** be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the scholarships granted to the Scheduled Castes students are stopped in the middle of their studies; and

(b) what is the number of scholarships discontinued in the State of Bihar in 1953-54, although sanctioned earlier?

The Minister of Education and Natural Resources and Scientific Research (Maulana Azad): (a) No, except in the case of students who have either been awarded State scholarships of higher value or have left their studies or have failed in the annual examination. Medical and Engineering students failing for the first time by a margin of 5 per cent. of students prevented from appearing at the annual examination on account of illness are however granted an extension.

(b) 11 out of a total of 93 applicants for renewal.

LIGNITE DEPOSITS

*271. **Shri A. K. Gopalan:** Will the Minister of **Natural Resources and Scientific Research** be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some years ago, the Geological Survey of India had unearthed lignite deposits in and around Cannanore Town of Malabar District (Madras);

(b) whether Government propose to place on the Table of the House the report sent to the Government by the excavators in this connection; and

(c) why this excavation work was suddenly stopped, and, what plans the Government of India have to tap these lignite deposits in the area?

The Minister of Education and Natural Resources and Scientific Research (Maulana Azad): (a) to (c). A statement giving the information required is laid on the Table of the House. [*See* Appendix III, annexure No. 7.]

इंजीनियर सेना द्वारा दिल्ली में खोदा गया नाला

*२७३. **श्री नवल प्रभाकर :** क्या रक्षा मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि दिल्ली में इंजीनियर-सेना द्वारा पानी के इंजन तक एक नाला खोदा गया है जिससे जमना के प्रवाह में परिवर्तन हो जाये और दिल्ली की जनता के लिये पानी की कमी न रहे;

(ख) इस कार्य में कितने इंजीनियरों और सैनिकों न भाग लिया; और

(ग) क्या इस कार्य के फलस्वरूप पानी की सप्लाई की स्थिति में कुछ सुधार हुआ है ?

The Deputy Minister of Defence (Sardar Majithia): (a) Yes.

(b) Eight men.

(c) Yes.

पंजाब में अनुसूचित क्षेत्र

*२७४. **डा० सत्यवादी :** क्या गृह-कार्य मंत्री ३ मई, १९५४ को पूछे गये तारांकित प्रश्न संख्या २१९७ के उत्तर के सम्बन्ध में यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या पंजाब सरकार ने १९५४-५५ में अनुसूचित क्षेत्रों के सुधार के लिये केन्द्रीय सरकार को कोई योजना भेजी है; और

(ख) यदि हां, तो उसकी रूपरेखा क्या है ?

The Deputy Minister of Home Affairs (Shri Datar): (a) Yes.

(b) A statement showing the outlines of the schemes and the ceilings fixed for 1954-55, is laid on the Table of the House. [*See* Appendix III, annexure No. 3.]

PART 'C' STATES

*276. **Shri Bahadur Singh:** Will the Minister of **Home Affairs** be pleased to state:

(a) the names of part 'C' States which are under the supervision of the Ministry of Home Affairs;

(b) the names of Part 'C' States under the supervision of the Ministry of States; and

(c) the reasons for splitting these States into two categories, each to be supervised by a different ministry?

The Deputy Minister of Home Affairs (Shri Datar): (a) Delhi, Ajmer and Coorg.

(b) Bhopal, Himachal Pradesh, Vindhya Pradesh, Kutch, Manipur and Tripura.

(c) The reason is one of administrative convenience. The States of Delhi, Ajmer and Coorg, which were previously under the administrative control of the Ministry of Home Affairs continued to be under the charge of that Ministry. The States of Bhopal, Himachal Pradesh, Vindhya Pradesh, Kutch, Manipur and Tripura, which were formed out of the princely States and had thus close associations with the old Political Department, were placed under the charge of the Ministry of States.

अखिल भारतीय मुख्याध्यापक गोष्ठी

*२७७. **श्री एम० एल० द्विवेदी:**
पंडित डी० एन० तिवारी:

क्या **शिक्षा** मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) गत वर्ष तारादेवी, शिमला में हुई अखिल भारतीय मुख्याध्यापक गोष्ठी की सिफारिशें क्या हैं;

(ख) गोष्ठी की विभिन्न सिफारिशों के सम्बन्ध में सरकार ने क्या निर्णय किए;

(ग) इन सिफारिशों को कार्यान्वित करने के लिये सरकार क्या कार्यवाही करना चाहती है; और

(घ) प्रस्तावित माध्यमिक शिक्षा की रूपरेखा क्या है; और इसे कब तक कार्यरूप में परिणत करने का विचार है ?

The Minister of Education and Natural Resources and Scientific Research (Maulana Azad): (a) Attention of the Hon'ble Member is invited to the publication "Head Masters on Secondary Education", copies of which are available in the Parliament Library.

(b) and (c). The copies of the Report have been supplied to the State Governments who are primarily concerned with the recommendations made by the Seminar.

(d) A statement is laid on the Table of the House. [*See* Appendix III, annexure No. 9.]

ALL-INDIA PRIMARY EDUCATION COMMISSION

*278. **Shri S. N. Das:**
Shri H. N. Mukerjee:
Shri M. R. Krishna:
Shri Buchhikotaiah:
Sardar A. S. Saigal:

Will the Minister of **Education** be pleased to state:

(a) whether the question of appointing an All-India Primary Education Commission is under the consideration of Government;

(b) whether it is a fact that a deputation of the All-India Primary Teachers Federation waited on the Prime Minister recently; and

(c) if so, what were the important points discussed by the deputation and which of the proposals have been accepted by Government?

The Minister of Education and Natural Resources and Scientific Research (Maulana Azad): (a) No.

(b) Yes.

(c) A statement is laid on the Table of the House. [*See* Appendix III, annexure No. 10.]

CENTRAL ARCHAEOLOGICAL LIBRARY

*279. **Shri Bahadur Singh:** Will the Minister of **Education** be pleased to state:

(a) what are the facilities given to research scholars in the Central Archaeological Library; and

(b) whether it is a fact that research students are considerably handicapped by the rules of the Library?

The Minister of Education and Natural Resources and Scientific Research (Maulana Azad): (a) Research students are given facilities to consult books etc. in the Library and can, under certain conditions, also borrow books. Such accommodation as is available in the Library has been set apart for readers doing their work in the Library.

(b) No.

H. T.10 AIRCRAFT

106. Shri V. P. Nayar: Will the Minister of **Defence** be pleased to refer to starred question No. 2401 asked on the 11th May, 1954 and state the reasons for abandonment of the H.T.-10 Aircraft Project?

The Deputy Minister of Defence (Shri Satish Chandra): Due to the advance in Jet engines, the HT-10 which was designed to be a piston engined trainer was abandoned.

H. T.2 AIRCRAFT

107. Shri V. P. Nayar: Will the Minister of **Defence** be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of the H.T.2 aircraft manufactured with complete accessories in the Hindustan Aircraft Limited till the 1st July 1934;

(b) how many failures in flying have occurred during 1951-52, 1952-53 and 1953-54, when the H.T.2 aircraft were used;

(c) how many H.T.2 aircraft have been forced to be on the ground for want of critical accessories, such as, radio transmitter units and Wingspan lights; and

(d) how many H.T.2 aircraft have been delivered by the Hindustan Aircraft Limited to the Indian Air Force with complete accessories so far and what is the amount advanced by the Indian Air Force to the Hindustan Aircraft Limited for the H.T.2 aircraft and under what terms and conditions?

The Deputy Minister of Defence (Shri Satish Chandra): (a) 40.

(b) A few prototype and pre-production aircraft were involved in accidents during intensive flying tests. None of these accidents is attributable to any defects of design or manufacture.

(c) None.

(d) It is not in public interest to disclose the information.

HINDUSTAN AIRCRAFT LIMITED

108. Shri V. P. Nayar: Will the Minister of **Defence** be pleased to state:

(a) whether Gypsy Major Engines are overhauled in the Hindustan Aircraft Limited and if so, since when,

(b) the number of Gypsy Major Engines overhauled upto the 1st June, 1954;

(c) whether it is a fact that Messrs. De Havillands Company of the U.K. has authorised the Hindustan Aircraft Limited as their sole representatives for overhaul of their engines etc., for South East Asia; and

(d) the types or makes other than Gypsy Major Engines manufactured by Messrs. De Havillands which have been received for overhaul in the Hindustan Aircraft Limited and what have been their numbers, since 1950?

The Deputy Minister of Defence (Shri Satish Chandra): (a) Yes, Sir Since the year 1948.

(b) 86.

(c) M/s Hindustan Aircraft Ltd. are service agents in India for the products manufactured by M/s De Havilands Aircraft Company. De Havillands.

have advised operators in South East Asia that capacity for overhaul of their Piston Engines is available at Hindustan Aircraft Ltd.

(d) In addition to the Gypsy Major Engines, Hindustan Aircraft Ltd. have overhauled 60 engines of Gypsy Queen 70 type and 27 engines of Gypsy Queen 32 type since 1950-51. Both these types are De Havillands products.

HINDUSTAN AIRCRAFT LIMITED

109. Shri V. P. Nayar: Will the Minister of **Defence** be pleased to state:

(a) the cost of overhaul of a Gypsy Major Engine at the Hindustan Aircraft Limited (i) for the Indian Air Force, (ii) for other Indian establishments and (iii) engines sent for overhaul from foreign countries;

(b) whether it is a fact that when charges of overhaul are quoted by the Hindustan Aircraft Limited, only the charges for about 750 man-hours are quoted; and

(c) whether it is a fact that in actual overhaul the man-hours exceed 2,000 for Gypsy Major Engines and if so, for what reasons?

The Deputy Minister of Defence (Shri Satish Chandra): (a) The overhaul charges are recovered from the Indian Air Force on the basis of actual cost plus a margin of profit. It would not be in the interest of the Company to disclose information regarding the amount charged from other Indian and foreign customers.

(b) Hindustan Aircraft Ltd. usually quote a monetary figure for overhaul work undertaken by them and not a man-hour figure.

(c) No, Sir.

MICA, GRAPHITE AND LIGNITE

110. Shri V. P. Nayar: Will the Minister of **Natural Resources and Scientific Research** be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any precise information about the Mica, Graphite and Lignite deposits in the Travancore-Cochin State; and

(b) whether any detailed survey has been made in regard to these deposits?

The Minister of Education and Natural Resources and Scientific Research (Maulana Azad): (a) and (b). A statement giving the information available is laid on the Table of the House. [*See* Appendix III, annexure No. 11.]

AMERICANS IN INDIA

111. { Shri D. C. Sharma: / Seth Govind Das:

Will the Minister of **Home Affairs** be pleased to lay on the Table of the House a statement showing the number of U.S.A. nationals living in India at present and their number in the preceding six years as also their vocations?

The Minister of Home Affairs and States (Dr. Katju): The information available is regarding the number of U.S.A. nationals registered on the 31st December 1953 and on that date during the preceding 6 years. A statement giving this information is laid on the Table of the House. [*See* Appendix III, annexure No. 12.]

MILITARY FARMS

112. Shri V. P. Nayar: Will the Minister of **Defence** be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that foodgrains are not raised in the farms under the control of the Director of Farms (Military) and if so, why; and

(b) what is (1) the total area of such farms;

(2) the area under fodder crop cultivation as on the 1st July, 1954;

(3) the number of civilians and Military staff separately, employed on these farms in the year 1953-54;

(4) the overall expenses in the farms and the overall receipts from farm products in the above period; and

(5) the number of cattle with separate figures for military cattle, on the farms as on the 1st July, 1954?

The Deputy Minister of Defence (Sardar Majithia): (a) Food grains are raised in the farms but only for the animals of the Farms and of the Army Service Corps. As all the food grains, together with the fodder that is raised in the farms, are not sufficient to meet even the requirements of these animals, no food grain is grown for human consumption.

(b) (1) 1,30,515·141 acres.

(2) 13,173·39 acres.

(3) *Civilians*

Gazeted officers	10
Non-gazetted officers	710
Class IV personel	4099

Military

Commissioned officers	7
Junior Commissioned officers	15
Non-commissioned officers	12

(4) The figures of overall income and expenditure for the year 1953-54 are not yet available. The corresponding figures for 1952-53 are as under:—

Gross Income	Rs. 3,59,40,057.
Gross Expenditure	Rs. 3,22,70,899.

(5) The total number of cattle in the military farms is 15,379. They all belong to the Army and their breakdown is as follows:—

Cows	2267
Cows Young Stock (and calves female)	1536
Cows Young Stock (and Calves male)	95
Buffaloes	7100
Buffaloes Young Stock (and calves female)	2501
Buffaloes Young Stock (and calves male)	192
Cow Bulls	95
Buffaloe Bulls	222
Cow Bullocks	1333
Buffaloe Bullocks	38
	15,379

CONFERENCES OUTSIDE DELHI

113. Shri Gidwani: Will the Minister of **Home Affairs** be pleased to state:

(a) the number of conferences organised by the various Government departments that were held at various Hill Stations and other places outside Delhi during the months of May and June 1954; and

(b) the places where such conferences were held?.

The Deputy Minister of Home Affairs (Shri Datar): (a) (i). At Hill Stations—13.

(ii) At other places outside Delhi—3.

(b) Simla, Ranchi, Srinagar, Bangalore, Darjeeling, Coonoore, Mussoorie and Calcutta.

M. E. S. EMPLOYEES

114. Shri C. R. Chowdary: Will the Minister of **Defence** be pleased to state:

(a) the number of industrial M.E.S. employees who have applied for admission into the Contributory Provident Fund Scheme till the 1st June, 1954;

(b) the number of persons who have been admitted upto that date;

(c) the reasons for the delay in not admitting the rest;

(d) the average percentage of recovery of amount on account of arrears of an employee's share of contribution per month; and

(e) the steps that are being taken by Government to expedite the disposal of the pending applications and to minimise hardship in the recovery of arrears of employees' contribution?

The Deputy Minister of Defence (Shri Satish Chandra): (a) 15,828.

(b) 10,098

(c) The applications of the remaining personnel are being verified by administrative and audit authorities to check their eligibility for admission to the Fund.

(d) Arrears of employees' share of contribution to the Fund is recovered in monthly instalments not exceeding 24 in number. The minimum percentage of recovery per month on account of arrears of subscription is 4-1/6 of the total arrears.

(e) The progress of admission to the Fund of the personnel is closely watched and all possible steps are being taken to complete the process of admission without delay.

To minimise hardship to the employees, the number of monthly instalments for recovery of arrears of subscription has now been increased from 12 to 24.

M. E. S. EMPLOYEES

115. Shri Nambiar: Will the Minister of **Defence** be pleased to refer to the reply given to unstarred question No. 254 on the 1st December, 1953 and state the number of M.E.S. employees, industrial and non-industrial as on the 1st June, 1954—

(i) whose pay has not yet been fixed in the prescribed scale,

(ii) who have not been granted annual increments for the last three years, and

(iii) who have not been granted annual increments, for more than a year?

The Deputy Minister of Defence (Shri Satish Chandra): (i)—

Industrial	1106
Non-Industrial	616
Total	1722
(ii) Industrial	971
Non-Industrial	621
Total	1592
(iii) Industrial	894
Non-Industrial	236
Total	1130

Cases of 3,800 employees have been settled finally since the 1st January 1954 and it is hoped to settle the remaining cases in the next few months.

SCHOOLS OF PRINTING

116. Shri S. N. Das: Will the Minister of **Education** be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to offer financial assistance to the States either for the establishment of schools of Printing or for the development of facilities in the subject in their existing technical institutions;

(b) if so, whether this is to be done under the scheme of training in Graphic Art and Allied Technology prepared by the All-India Board of Technical Studies in Applied Art;

(c) the important features of the scheme; and

(d) which of the States are participating in the Scheme?

The Minister of Education and Natural Resources and Scientific Research (Maulana Azad): (a) Yes.

(b) Yes, but in place of a Central School of Printing for advanced training and a school with full facilities in each State recommended by the Board, the Government have accepted the recommendation of the All India Council for Technical Education to establish in the first instance, four Regional Schools, one each in the East, West, South and North of the country, and to assist in the improvement of the existing schools.

(c) The Hon'ble Member is referred to the report of the Board, copy of which is available in the library.

(d) Madras and West Bengal are participating, and Bombay is considering the question of establishment of a Regional School.

ELECTION PETITIONS

117. Shri Krishnacharya Joshi: Will the Minister of **Law** be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of election petitions pending before the Election Commission up to July, 1954; and

(b) the total number of applications disposed of during that period?

The Minister of Law and Minority Affairs (Shri Biswas): (a) 3--(not referred yet to Tribunals which are being constituted).

(b) 393 — (referred to Tribunals).

योजना स्कूल

११९. श्री एम० एल० द्विवेदी : क्या **शिक्षा** मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या नगर-आयोजक-संस्था (इंस्टीट्यूट आफ टाउन प्लानर्ज़) के सहयोग से एक योजना स्कूल खोलने का निर्णय किया गया है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो प्रस्तावित स्कूल कहां खोला जायेगा और इसमें कितने छात्रों को लिया जायेगा, इत्यादि; और

(ग) अनुदान तथा सहायता के रूप में इस स्कूल को कितनी कितनी राशि दी जायेगी ?

The Minister of Education and Natural Resources and Scientific Research (Maulana Azad): (a) Yes, it has been decided to establish a School of Town & Regional Planning in association with the Institute of Town Planners.

(b) The school will be an autonomous body registered under the Societies Registration Act. Its administration and management will be in the hands of a Governing Body consisting of representatives of Government, the Institute of Town Planners, All India Council for Technical Education and the Institute of Engineers (India). It will be located in New Delhi. The details of the courses of training, number of students to be admitted and other aspects of the scheme are being prepared by the Governing Body.

(c) The amount of grant to be given will be decided after financial estimates have been worked out in detail by the Governing Body.

Boarding Houses for Tribal Students

120. Shri Dasaratha Deb: Will the Minister of **Education** be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any scheme for establishing more boarding houses for Tribal students at Agartala (Tripura); and

(b) if so, when that scheme is expected to be finalised?

The Minister of Education and Natural Resources and Scientific Research (Maulana Azad): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Income-tax from Sugar Factories

121. Shri Bishwa Nath Roy: Will the Minister of **Finance** be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of income-tax realised from the sugar factories of Deoria District (U.P.) during the last three years; and

(b) whether any levy which became due in 1952 or before is still outstanding?

The Deputy Minister of Finance (Shri M. C. Shah): (a)—

1951-52	1952-53	1953-54
Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
12,62,663	6,31,777	44,87,107

(b) Some tax payable by certain Mills which became due in 1952 or before is still outstanding. Steps have been taken to recover it.

Loan to State Co-operative Bank of West Bengal

122. Shri B. K. Das: Will the Minister of **Finance** be pleased to state:

(a) the amounts of loan asked for from the Reserve Bank of India by the State Cooperative Bank of West Bengal for agricultural operations and marketing of crops during the last three years;

(b) the amounts sanctioned for each year; and

(c) the amounts actually drawn?

The Deputy Minister of Finance (Shri A. C. Guha): (a) to (c). The required information is given below:—

(Rs. in lakhs)

Year (July-June)	Amount applied for	Amount sanctioned	Amount actually drawn
1951-52	60	*60	70
1952-53	75	75	70
1953-54	100	100	76

*(*i. e.* the permissible balance at the end of the year after repayments from the total loans drawn.)

In addition a loan of Rs. 40 lakhs which was granted to this bank in April, 1952, against the pledge of Government securities under Section 17(4) (a) of the Reserve Bank of India Act for the purpose of strengthening its fluid resources has been subsequently renewed for the years 1953-54 and 1954-55, *i.e.* upto 31-3-35.

CUSTOMS, EXCISE, CORPORATION TAX ETC.

123. Shri K. K. Basu: Will the Minister of **Finance** be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount collected during the first quarter of the financial year 1954-55 on account of Customs, Union Excise duties, Corporation Tax, Income-tax and the Estate Duty;

(b) how it compares with the corresponding earnings of the last two years; and

(c) the reasons for the variations, if any?

The Deputy Minister of Finance (Shri A. C. Guha): (a) Rs. 79·1 crores.

(b) The amount collected during the corresponding period of the last two years is as under:

1952-53:	Rs. 95·9 crores
1953-54:	Rs. 86·9 crores

(c) While the excise revenue has shown an improvement, there has been a drop in the Customs and Income-tax and Corporation Tax revenue. The short-fall in the Customs Revenue has been due largely to the reduction of the export duty on Jute Manufactures and cotton cloth, and that under Income-tax and Corporation-tax to the smaller carry-forward of uncollected demands from assessments completed during the immediately preceding year and smaller demand yield of current assessments. As for the Estate Duty, it is too early yet to make any comparison.

INCOME-TAX EVASION

124. Shri Raghunath Singh: Will the Minister of **Finance** be pleased to state the number of cases of Income-tax evasion that were detected during the financial year 1953-54?

The Deputy Minister of Finance (Shri M. C. Shah:) The information called for is not available from any published records or compiled statistics. If it were to be compiled, it will be necessary to make a reference to every Income-tax Officer all over India and the labour involved would not be commensurate with the results likely to be achieved by gathering this information.

चोरी छिपे माल ले जाने के मामले

१२५. श्री नवल प्रभाकर : क्या वित्त मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) सीमाशुल्क अधिकारियों ने इस वर्ष अब तक बम्बई में चोरी छिपे माल ले जाने के कितने मामले पकड़े; और

(ख) इनमें कितने का सोना, तथा अन्य वस्तुयें थीं ?

The Deputy Minister of Finance (Shri A. C. Guha): (a) The number of smuggling cases detected at Bombay by the Customs Staff from 1st January 1954 upto 31st July 1954 is 1067.

(b) The estimated value of seized gold and other goods involved is Rs. 15,24,273/- and Rs. 5,89,941/- respectively, based on the market

values prevailing at the time of seizure.

Seizures of smuggled gold and other goods were, however, also effected by the staff of the Bombay Central Excise Collectorate in Bombay city and other places within the jurisdiction of the Collectorate. During the period to which the question relates, 47 cases were detected by the Central Excise Staff in Bombay city and the value of gold and other goods involved was Rs. 23,10,802/- and Rs. 16,04,602/- respectively.

पंचवर्षीय योजना के अन्तर्गत अनुसूचित जातियों आदि को अनुदान

१२६. { डा० सत्यवादी :
श्री० डी० सी० शर्मा :
श्री एन० राघव्या :

क्या गृह-कार्य मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) पंचवर्षीय योजना के अन्तर्गत अनुसूचित जातियों आदि के लिये रखे गये चार करोड़ रुपये में से अब तक कितनी राशि व्यय की गई है और इसे किस रीति से व्यय किया गया है;

(ख) १९५४-५५ में इस निधि में से कितनी राशि व्यय की जायेगी और प्रत्येक राज्य में इसमें से कितनी कितनी राशि खर्च होगी;

(ग) क्या पंजाब सरकार ने इस विषय में केन्द्रीय सरकार के पास कोई विशेष योजना भेजी है; और

(घ) यदि हां, तो उसकी रूपरेखा तथा आर्थिक पहलू क्या हैं ?

The Deputy Minister of Home Affairs (Shri Datar): (a) Out of Rupees four crores provided in the Five Year Plan for the welfare of Backward Classes, other than the Scheduled Tribes, a sum of Rs. 1 crore was allocated to the State Governments etc., during the financial year 1953-54 and a sum of Rs. 1·25 crores has been earmarked for distribution during the current financial year (1954-55). The balance *viz.*, Rs. 1·75 crores will be allocated during the next financial year (1955-56). Information as to the amount actually spent by the State Governments etc. and the manner in which it was spent during the last year is still awaited.

(b) A statement showing the ceilings which have been provisionally fixed is laid on the Table of the House. [*See* Appendix III, annexure No. 13.]

(c) and (d). Yes; two statements containing particulars of the schemes and the amount sanctioned for each scheme are laid on the Table of the House. [*See* Appendix III, annexure No. 13.]

TRANSPORT OF ARMY SUPPLIES TO SRINAGAR

127. Th. Lakshman Singh Charak: Will the Minister of **Defence** be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Army supplies are being transported on the Jammu and Kashmir Government Transport Vehicles from Pathankot to Srinagar;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the cost per maund incurred by the Defence Department when the stores were sent through the Army vehicles and the cost per maund paid to the Jammu and Kashmir Government Transport; and

(d) the rates of freight per maund charged by the private transport companies for carrying goods from Pathankot to Srinagar?

The Deputy Minister of Defence (Sardar Majithia): (a) Yes.

(b) (i) Conservation of army vehicle fleet.

(ii) A reduction in holdings of Petrol Oil and Lubricants at

Pathankot base and at Udhampur and Srinagar.

(iii) A reduction in maintenance and Workshop load.

(c) (i) *Cost of Defence Department Transport*:

Normal rate for the use of army transport of 84 maunds carrying capacity is Rs. 1/- per mile. This works out to 2·29 pies per mile per maund.

(ii) *Cost of Jammu and Kashmir Government Transport*:

Maund mile rate for non-bulky and bulky stores for both way journeys	2·2 pies
Maund miles rate for non-bulky and bulky stores for one way journey	3·53 pies
One vehicle conveying 80 maunds for both way journeys between Pathankot and Srinagar	Rs. 500/-
One vehicle conveying 80 maunds for one way journey Pathankot—Srinagar	Rs. 400/-

(d) *Local rates*:

The local rate for conveyance of stores between Pathankot and Srinagar is understood to be Rs. 6/2/- per maund for the journey which works out to 4·32 pies per maund per mile.

BACKWARD CLASSES SCHOLARSHIPS

128. Shri Jhulan Sinha: Will the Minister of **Education** be pleased to state the total amount of scholarships granted for each of the three classes *viz.* Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and other backward classes students in Bihar during the last three years?

The Minister of Education and Natural Resources and Scientific Research (Maulana Azad): The hon. Member's attention is invited to the statement laid on the Table of the House. [*See* Appendix III, annexure No. 14.]

LOK SABHA

DEBATES

(Part II—Proceedings other than Questions and Answers)

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Seventh Session

1954

LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT

NEW DELHI

LOK SABHA

Monday, 30th August, 1954

The Lok Sabha met at a Quarter Past Eight of the Clock.

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair.*]

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

(See Part I)

9-15 A.M.

MOTION FOR ADJOURNMENT

SITUATION IN TRAVANCORE-COCHIN RE: TRANSPORT SERVICES

Mr. Speaker: I have received notice of an adjournment motion which reads as under:

> "The serious situation in Travancore-Cochin State and especially in the Transport Services managed by the State, resulting from the lathi charges on Transport Workers and arrests of several hundreds of the State Transport Workers on and from the 28th August, 1954."

On its own showing, the motion refers to a subject which is entirely within the jurisdiction of the State. In giving his reasons for the adjournment motion, the hon. Member has tried to stretch the point and bring it within the Central responsibility. He says in his reasons that, the Government of India has under the current Five Year Plan, allotted a sum of Rs. 42 lakhs for the development of the State-owned transport system, in the Planning Commission's report and the second reason is that the implementation of the development plans, for which the Government of India has sanctioned this amount, will necessarily depend upon the harmony between the workers and the Government. I think this is too far-fetched and the motion cannot be brought within the Central responsibility. I am afraid I cannot give my consent to this.

PAPER LAID ON THE TABLE

OPINIONS ON INDIAN ARMS (AMENDMENT) BILL

Shri U. C. Patnaik (Ghumsur): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of Paper No. 1 containing certain opinions on the Indian Arms (Amendment) Bill, 1954, which was circulated for the purpose of eliciting opinion thereon by the 31st August, 1954, by the direction of the House on the 9th April, 1954.

CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

STRIKE IN HARNESS AND SADDLERY FACTORY, KANPUR

Shri V. P. Nayar (Chirayinkil): Under Rule 215, I beg to call the attention of the Minister of Defence Organisation to the following matter of urgent public importance and I request that he may make a statement thereon:—

> "The situation arising out of the strike in the Harness and Saddlery Factory, Kanpur."

The Deputy Minister of Defence (Shri Satish Chandra): The manufacture of camouflage nets commenced in fairly large numbers in March, 1954, when suitably trained men became available. The piece-work rate for one net was provisionally fixed at Rs. 12. Subsequently, in accordance with certain general instructions regarding co-relation of piece-work rates with monthly scales of pay, the rate of Rs. 12 was increased to Rs. 17/8/- along with increases in other rates. It had been observed that the provisional rate of Rs. 12 was very loose, but the management wished to be satisfied and, therefore, watched its operation over a few months, during which period the increase due to co-relation with monthly scales took place. It was found fairly obvious that this increased rate of Rs. 17/8/- was loose, and at the time of co-relating it, it was earmarked as a rate giving excessive profits which should be reviewed in accordance with the orders of the Government on the subject. The progress of manufacture was further watched during which period the abnormal profits continued. At this stage, the workers apparently got to know that the management was contemplating a review of the piece-work rate and immediately adopted a 'go-slow' policy which was watched for some time, and a notice to this effect was posted in the section. The time-study as completed by the rate-fixer, was with the rate of Rs. 8/4/- per net, but on scrutiny by the Works Manager, it was considered that the rate-fixer was rather strict in some of the study-factors and, accordingly, suitable amendments were made, and the rate was finally fixed at Rs. 10 per net. This rate was notified to take effect from the 16th August, 1954.

On the 17th August, the Secretary of the Harness and Saddlery Factory Employees' Union sent a letter to the Superintendent of the Factory protesting against this reduction. A reply was sent on the 19th pointing out that the rate of Rs. 17/8/- had been very loosely fixed, and asking the Secretary to advise the workers to accept the correct rate, on which they could still make a decent profit if they worked properly. On the 23rd August, the Secretary of the Union saw the Superintendent of the Factory and efforts were made to make him appreciate the correct position, but the Secretary was adamant and insisted that there should be no reduction. He left the Superintendent's office stating that he would tell the workers to strike work from 1 p.m., and as a result of his advice, the workers stopped work. The Regional Labour Commissioner was apprised of the situation. The next day, on the 24th August, 246 men engaged on the manufacture of camouflage nets attended the factory but sat idle doing no work. Both the Central Conciliation Officer and the Regional Labour Commissioner negotiated with the employees' representatives. The Regional Labour Commissioner suggested that the manufacturing operation should be time-studied again. The factory management agreed to this proposal, but the Union agreed only on the condition that the old rate of Rs. 17/8/- was allowed to continue upto the 1st September, 1954. This was not accepted by the management, who said that any new rates arrived at as a result of the second time-study should be made applicable from the 16th August, on which date the new rate had been brought into effect. The Regional Labour Commissioner recommended to the Union to accept the proposal, but the Union did not agree.

On the 25th August, a meeting was held by the Union at which a resolution was passed calling upon workers in the Factory to stage a token strike from 10 a.m. to 12 noon on the 27th August. The Superintendent thereupon informed the workmen that the men staging a sit-down strike would not be entitled to any payments during the period of the strike as per section 9 of the Payment of Wages Act. About 20 to 30 persons of the Production Section, that is, approximately 600 to 700 workmen, joined

this token strike and the rest worked as usual. No one, however, worked in the Camouflage Net Section. The Superintendent informed the workmen that those men in the Net Section who were on strike from 1 p.m. on the 23rd August and subsequently would be treated as absent from duty for the period when they did no work.

The revision of the piece-work rates was in accordance with the Government decision on the recommendations of the Kalyanvala Committee. According to that decision, the piece-work rates, which had previously been linked to the rates prior to 1947, were to be revised and linked to the monthly scales following the Pay Commission's recommendations. Generally, this meant a considerable increase in the rates and Government had passed orders that where *prima facie* excessively high profits were being earned, the rates should be reviewed after proper examination and study. There is no question of reducing piece-work rates because production is going up. Government has no intention whatsoever of reducing piece-work rates on that account. On the contrary, Government wants increased production. Wherever, however, the records of earnings of workers show that very excessive profits are being earned, there is surely a case for revising the wrongly fixed piece-work rates. Normally, a piece-worker, working with a reasonable speed, is expected to earn a profit of 25 per cent over his basic wage. A good piece-worker may earn 50 or even 75 per cent profits. Where, however, profits are consistently being earned by many workers over 100 or 200 per cent, it is fairly clear that the piece-work rate was fixed too high and needs revision.

GOVERNMENT PREMISES (EVICTION) AMENDMENT BILL, 1953

The Minister of Works, Housing and Supply (Sardar Swaran Singh): I beg to move for leave to withdraw the Bill further to amend the Government Premises (Eviction) Act, 1950, which was introduced in the House of the People on the 18th March, 1953.

The reason is merely this. This Bill has been before the House for about a year and a half. Recently, in a case decided by the High Court of Bombay, it was held that sub-section (1) of section 3 of the Act does not authorise the eviction of a person who continued to be in occupation of the premises allotted to him even after the due determination thereof, because he was not a person in unauthorised occupation of the premises within the meaning of clause (b) of the said sub-section. The intention of this section has always been that such persons should be deemed to be persons in unauthorised occupation of the Premises.

So, we have decided to amend the Government Premises (Eviction) Act, 1950, in order to make our intention clear in this respect. If the House will permit me to withdraw this Bill, I shall be moving another Bill more comprehensive in nature and covering both the amendments.

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That leave be granted to withdraw the Bill further to amend the Government Premises (Eviction) Act, 1950."

The motion was adopted.

GOVERNMENT PREMISES (EVICTION) AMENDMENT BILL, 1954

The Minister of Works, Housing and Supply (Sardar Swaran Singh): I introduce the Bill further to amend the Government Premises (Eviction) Act, 1950.

Mr. Speaker: The Bill is introduced.

CENTRAL EXCISES AND SALT (AMENDMENT) BILL

The Deputy Minister of Finance (Shri A. C. Guha): I beg to move for

[Shri A. C. Guha]

leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Central Excises and Salt Act, 1944.

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Central Excises and Salt Act, 1944."

The motion was adopted.

Shri A. C. Guha: I introduce* the Bill.

UNTOUCHABILITY (OFFENCES) BILL—*Contd.*

Mr. Speaker: The House will now proceed with the further consideration of the following motion moved by Dr. Kailas Nath Katju on the 26th August, 1954:—

"That the Bill to prescribe punishment for the practice of untouchability or the enforcement of any disability arising therefrom, be referred to a Joint Committee of the Houses consisting of 49 members, 33 from this House, namely, Shri Upendranath Barman, Shri Narayan Sadoba Kajrolkar, Shri T. Sangana, Shri Pannalall Barupall, Shri Naval Prabhakar, Shri Ajit Singh, Shri Ganeshi Lal Chaudhary, Shri Bahadurbhai Kunthabhai Patel, Shrimati Minimata, Shri Motilal Malviya, Shri Dodda Thimmaiah, Shri Rameshwar Sahu, Shri M. R. Krishna, Shri Ram Dass, Shri Nemi Saran Jain, Pandit Algu Rai Shastri, Shri Shree Narayan Das, Shri S. V. Ramaswamy, Shri Resham Lal Jangde, Shri Balwant Nagesh Datar, Shri P. T. Punnoose, Shri Mangalagiri Nanadas, Shri P. N. Rajabhoj, Rt. Rev. John Richardson, Shri A. Jayaraman, Shri V. G. Deshpande, Shri B. S. Murthy, Shri Vijneshwar Missir, Shri R. Velayudhan, Shri N. M. Lingam, Shri Mohanlal Saksena, Shri N. C Chatterjee and Dr. Kailas Nath Katju

and 16 members from the Rajya Sabha;

that in order to constitute a sitting of the Joint Committee the quorum shall be one-third of the total number of members of the Joint Committee;

that the Committee shall make a report to this House by the last day of the first week of the next Session;

that in other respects the Rules of Procedure of this House relating to Parliamentary Committees will apply with such variations and modifications as the Speaker may make; and

that this House recommends to the Rajya Sabha that the Rajya Sabha do join the said Joint Committee and communicate to this House the names of members to be appointed by the Rajya Sabha to the Joint Committee."

Shri Bogawat (Ahmednagar South): I thank you for allowing me an opportunity to speak on this Bill. I have tabled an amendment to the effect that this Bill should be referred to a Select Committee consisting solely of Members of this House. The reason for this is that we are the representatives of the people, directly returned to this House by the voters whose wishes and interest we know well. So, it is quite essential that the Committee should consist only of members of Lok Sabha. It is no use having a Joint Select Committee of both Houses, especially in Bills of this nature. The Rajya Sabha is a House of elders, and if they have any valuable contributions to make to the measure, they have ample opportunity to do so, when the measure as passed by us goes to them. To have Joint Select Committees of both Houses every now and then does not serve any useful purpose. I am sure the Home Minister will consider my request.

Having said that, I come to the Bill itself. Untouchability is an evil which

*Introduced with the recommendation of the President.

has crept into Hindu society since long. According to Hindu religion itself there is no untouchability. Even among the Jains, the Buddhists and the Sikhs, no untouchability is accepted by their religions. But owing to custom and usage this scourge of untouchability has crept into our society.

[PANDIT THAKUR DAS BHARGAVA *in the Chair.*]

The Father of the Nation dedicated his whole life to root out this evil from Indian society and while considering this measure the whole picture of his life unfolds itself before our eyes. He took every opportunity available to him to live in Harijan colonies and he adopted a Harijan girl as a member of his family. We cannot also forget as to how on the issue of separate electorates for the Harijans he was almost prepared to lay down his life. All these things clearly go to show as to how very necessary it is that untouchability must disappear from our country and from our society and there must be a new order established. Liberty must carry along with it equality, fraternity and brotherhood.

Unless this is done, I do not think the conditions of the Harijans or the untouchables would be improved. I do not think, Sir, that by bringing this legislation alone, the conditions of the Harijans would be improved. As a first step to the amelioration of the condition of the Harijans, their economic conditions must be improved. Clause (4) of article 15 of our Constitution says:

> "Nothing in this article or in clause (2) of article 29 shall prevent the State from making any special provision for the advancement of any socially and educationally backward classes of citizens or for the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes."

No doubt some States are doing their utmost for the amelioration of the condition of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. But that is not the case in all the States. In order to raise the condition of these unfortunate people, every State must see that Scheduled Caste people are given free education up to the highest level. If that is done, there would be a number of persons among them who would be high-placed socially and this itself would lead to their upliftment.

Then again clause (4) of article 16 of our Constitution says:

> "Nothing in this article shall prevent the State from making any provision for the reservation of appointments or posts in favour of any backward class of citizens which, in the opinion of the State, is not adequately represented in the services under the State."

This is a very important provision Several hon. Members have urged that Scheduled Castes should be represented on the Public Service Commissions. I am sorry to say that some excuse was given some time or the other saying "Oh, there are no efficient people, therefore it is not possible to appoint them". But it is a lame excuse. Even if they are not very efficient, let some mistakes be committed by some; let even ordinary people be appointed in such posts where they can raise the status of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes people. Unless that is done, I do not think the conditions of these people would be improved. That is the key-note of the problem and I would request the hon. the Home Minister to consider this suggestion and make an effort in this direction. If that effort is made, I think nobody will ask whether the person is an untouchable or belongs to a particular community or a low community and all these things. So, that is the thing which must be done for the uplift of the Scheduled Caste people.

Then, they must have good houses. They must be rehabilitated, and some grant must be given to the Harijans and Scheduled Caste people if they want to build houses in the locality of the other people. That is also

[Shri Bogawat]

essential. And the most important thing is the land question. Unless their economic conditions are improved, it is useless to bring even such a Bill as the Untouchability Bill. First, they must maintain themselves. There are so many government lands, and even though some States try to give the lands to the Harijans, I am very sorry to say that the lands are given for one year and when the Harijan improves the land some forfeiture clause is brought into effect and the land is taken back. This is a very bad thing. Give the lands for five or ten years. Allow them to improve the lands and cultivate the lands. Give them some monetary help, so that they can have implements and bullocks. If these things are done I think the social status of the Scheduled Caste people would be improved and there would be emancipation of these people; not otherwise. The mere bringing in of some measure so as to allow them to go to the temples or hotels or places of entertainment will not do, though that is also essential. I do not mean to say that that is not essential, because article 17 of our Constitution has declared that untouchability is abolished and its practice in any form is forbidden. And the enforcement of any disability arising out of untouchability shall be an offence punishable in accordance with law. Therefore, this is the Bill brought before us for that purpose.

I am very glad that our Home Minister said the other day that untouchability should be banished from this land root and branch. But how can untouchability be banished root and branch without doing all these other things, that is, through raising their economic conditions? That is the most essential thing.

Shri Velayudhan (Quilon *cum* Mavelikkara—Reserved—Sch. Castes): Why not abolish caste?

Shri Bogawat: Yes, that is also a necessity, abolishing caste. I request the hon. the Home Minister to give a subsidy or reward for inter-marriages with Harijans. If any person marries a Harijan girl, or if any Harijan youngman marries a high caste girl, there should be some reward or present given to such a person. If that is done, that would be a very great thing.

The Minister of Home Affairs and States (Dr. Katju): I imagine you will also suggest rewards for the children born, because that will be a matter of great importance.

Shri Bogawat: I am very sorry. I am very keen to say that these things should not be taken very lightly. They are very important matters. They should be considered very seriously. And if the Home Minister wants to take them very lightly, I am very sorry.

Dr. N. B. Khare (Gwalior): I am prepared to marry a Harijan girl. Let me have a reward.

Shri Bogawat: Nobody would give you a girl at this age, at the age of seventy!

Shri Syamnandan Sahaya (Muzaffarpur Central): We are afraid no girl will look at him!

Shri Sachan Gupta (Calcutta-South-East): He should take Shri D. C. Sharma's permission for it!

Shri Raghuramaiah (Tenali): May I know whether this is not a reflection on a Harijan girl?

Dr. N. B. Khare: Not at all; do not misunderstand me.

Shri Bogawat: There is a general awakening about untouchability among the intelligentsia the credit for most of which goes to the Herculean efforts made by Mahatma Gandhi. But the masses are still very backward in this respect and require to be awakened from their deep slumber. How can

the masses be awakened? That is the question. I think there must be a great propaganda, propaganda by non-officials as well as officials. The officials nowadays come in contact with the public so far as our National Plan, community projects and other schemes are concerned. So I request the Government to instruct their officers to do propaganda regarding the removal of untouchability and the disabilities arising therefrom. So also it is the duty of us all, non-officials and workers, to do great propaganda throughout the length and breadth of our country. If we try our best to do this it would have very good effect; not otherwise. Also, some persons must come forward and dedicate their whole life for this cause. If these things are done I think the question of removing untouchability will be solved very soon.

As regards the Bill I want to give certain instances. In the States of Ajmer and Bhopal not only are Scheduled Caste people considered to be untouchables but even the Scheduled Tribes people are. There must be some provision in this regard.

Similarly, among the Jains or Buddhists, no untouchability is existent, but on account of custom and usage they also consider untouchability. So, in all the clauses where it is mentioned "of the same religious denomination", I think we should say that "same religious denomination" means Hindus, Sikhs, Jains and Buddhists. That should be included there.

I wanted to say many things about hotels etc. and how Harijans are ill-treated, how they do not get even water to drink. In my district in 1952-53 when there was scarcity of water, it was difficult for these people to get even water for drinking. And in spite of the Act passed by the Bombay Government, the Bombay Government had very reluctantly to appoint servers for serving the water and pay for them. Because, if they had allowed the Harijans at the wells in those villages wherein there is too much untouchability, the other people would not have taken the water and there would have been a great difficulty. These are the conditions in the villages and we must therefore have very good propaganda.

As regards the punishment, under clauses 8, 9 and the other clauses, the punishment is only six months' imprisonment and Rs. 500 fine. I think it should be raised to one year's imprisonment and one thousand rupees fine. Light punishment is of no use.

The offence is made cognizable. But there are factions in villages and ordinary constables will be inclined to take some sides. There are also false allegations made against a person. So, I suggest that the offences should be investigated at least by an officer not below the rank of a sub-inspector. There should be a clause like this to avoid all these harassments and factions, etc.

I am very glad to see that this Bill has been brought by the Home Minister. It would be of much use to raise the status of Harijans socially and the social disabilities would be removed if this Bill is passed. I support the Bill.

श्री राम दास (होशियारपुर---रक्षित---अनुसूचित जातियां) : श्रीमान जी, जो मोशन इस वास्ते पेश किया गया है कि इसके मुताल्लिक राय मालूम की जाय कि अनटचेबिलिटी दूर करनी चाहिये या नहीं, मैं उस मोशन का विरोध करता हूं। मैं जानता हूं कि हमारे देश में इस वक्त इतनी जागृति हो चुकी है कि किसी जगह पर भी इस किस्म के लोग नहीं हैं जो इस बिल की मुखालिफत करेंगे। हर जगह पर लोग यह महसूस करते हैं कि जितनी जल्दी यह बुराई हमारे मुल्क से दूर हो सके उतनी जल्दी हमें इसे दूर करना चाहिये। इसलिये अगर यह बिल फिर लोगों के पास यह मालूम करने के लिए भेजा जायगा कि उनकी क्या राय है तो मैं समझता हूं कि इससे सिर्फ वक्त जाया होगा। इसलिये मैं उसका विरोध करता हूं

[श्री राम दास]

दूसरी बात मैं यह कहना चाहता हूं कि इस छुआछूत को दूर करने के लिये जितनी जरूरत हाई कास्ट हिन्दुओं को परिश्रम करने की है उतनी हरिजनों को नहीं है। यह छुआछूत का कलंक तो उनके माथे पर है। अगर वह इस पाप का प्रायश्चित करना चाहते हैं तो उनको खुद चाहिये कि वे जल्दी से जल्दी इस कलंक को अपने माथे से दूर कर दें। अगर वह यह पसन्द करते हैं कि सौ दो सौ साल तक यह कलंक और उनके माथे पर रहे तो जो जो तकलीफें इसके सबब से हमारी कौम ने उठाई हैं उससे भी ज्यादा बदतर हालत आयेगी। मैं समझता हूं कि इस वक्त भारतवासियों के साथ जो दूसरे लोग सलूक कर रहे हैं वह इसका ही एक नतीजा है। इस वक्त तकरीबन हर मुल्क से हिन्दुस्तानियों को निकालने की कोशिश हो रही है। किसी न किसी ढंग से उनको निकालने की कोशिश हो रही है। कोई न कोई कानून बना कर, कोई न कोई तरीका अख्तियार करके उनको वहां अछूत बनाया जा रहा है। जैसे यहां हमने अछूतों की बस्तियां जुदी बनायी हैं उसी तरह से ईस्ट और साउथ अफ्रीका के अन्दर यह कोशिश हो रही है कि हमारी बस्तियां भी उन लोगों से अलहिदा हों, हम उनके बाजारों में अपना बिजनेस न कर सकें, हम उनके इलाकों के अन्दर जमीनें न खरीद सकें। ऐसा क्यों हो रहा है ? यह इसलिये हो रहा है, जैसा कि किसी ने कहा है, कि

"Evil recoils on the doer"

जो बदी करता है बदी वापिस उसके ऊपर आती है और उसको उसका नतीजा भोगना पड़ता है। इसलिये मैं दरख्वास्त करूंगा कि यह छुआछूत को दूर करने का सवाल उतना हरिजनों का नहीं है जितना कि यह कास्ट हिन्दूज का है। अभी एक आनरेबिल मेम्बर ने उठ कर कहा :

"I am prepared to marry a Harijan girl."

May I know whether he is prepared for the reverse also?

अगर नहीं तो उनकी लड़की के अन्दर और दूसरी लड़की के अन्दर क्या तफरीक है। वह डिसक्रिमिनेशन है जिसके खिलाफ हरिजन फाइट करेगा। अब हरिजन के अन्दर इतनी जागृति पैदा हो चुकी है कि अगर आप इस कलंक को जल्दी से जल्दी दूर नहीं करेंगे तो मुल्क के अन्दर इस किस्म की तहरीक शुरू होगी, इस किस्म की मूवमेंट पैदा होगी जिसका कि नतीजा निहायत खराब होगा। हम कम्युनलिज्म से और सैक्टेरियनिज्म से तंग आये हुए हैं। जिन्होंने प्रधान मंत्री की तकरीर उस दिन पार्टी मीटिंग में सुनी है वह जानते हैं कि इस वक्त सब से बड़ी चीज जो उनके दिल को दुःख दे रही है वह फिरकापरस्ती है जो कि हमारे मुल्क में है। लेकिन इससे भी ज्यादा भयानक एक ऐसी चीज पैदा होगी कि जिसका इलाज करना फिर बहुत मुश्किल हो जायगा।

महात्मा गांधी ने और दूसरे रिफार्मर्स ने इसके लिये बहुत जोर लगाया। उन्होंने हिन्दुओं को समझाया कि यह बुराई दूर करनी चाहिये। अब कानून के जरिये से उसको दूर करने की कोशिश की जा रही है। इसमें शक नहीं कि इस किस्म की सोशल बुराइयों को कानून उस हद तक दूर नहीं कर सकता है जितनी कि उसकी मंशा होती है। और इस जगह भी यही भय प्रकट किया गया है कि यह बिल तो पास जरूर हो जायगा लेकिन इसका इंप्लीमेंटेशन नहीं हो सकेगा। मुझे भी इसमें शक है क्योंकि इसके इंप्लीमेंट करने वाले वही लोग हैं जिनका यह इंटरेस्ट है कि इस छुआछूत को दूर न किया जाय। कोई तो उसको इस सबब से नहीं चाहते कि वह यह मानते हैं कि उनका धर्म यही कहता है। लेकिन उनकी तादाद अब इस मुल्क में बहुत कम है। कुछ लोग इकोनोमिक तौर पर ऐसा मानते हैं कि अगर यह लोग इस तरह से आगे आ जायंगे तो हमारे लिये भी मुश्किल पैदा हो जायगी। इसलिये उनका भी वेस्टेड इंटरेस्ट यही चाहता है कि जहां तक हो सके इसको रिटार्ड करना चाहिये। वह नहीं चाहते कि यह बिल जो पास किया गया है उसके जरिये इस बुराई को इतनी जल्द खत्म कर दिया जाय। हम देखते हैं कि इस वक्त

भी बहुत से राज्यों में ऐसे बिल पास किये हुए हैं जो कि बहुत हद तक इस बिल के मंशा को पूरा करते हैं। किन्तु जब इंप्लीमेंटेशन के ऊपर बात आती है तो वह सारी की सारी बात फेल हो जाती है। अगर हरिजन अपनी किसी तकलीफ की रिपोर्ट करने थाने में जाता है तो वहां रिपोर्ट लिखने वाला कौन है ? यह वही है जो उसके मुखालिफ है। अगर वह किसी हाकिम के पास जाता है तो वह कौन है ? शायद वह भी ऐसा आदमी है जो इस बात में यकीन रखता है कि हरिजन को यह हक नहीं मिलना चाहिये। इसलिये अगर गवर्नमेंट यह चाहती है कि यह बिल पास करने के बाद इसका ठीक तौर पर इंप्लीमेंटेशन भी हो सके तो गवर्नमेंट को कोई इस किस्म की स्कीम बनानी होगी और इस किस्म के आफिसर्स और इस किस्म की मैशिनरी पैदा करनी होगी कि जिनके दिल में इस बात की लगन हो कि छुआछूत इस मुल्क से मिट जानी चाहिये। अगर इस किस्म के लोग मुकर्रर न किये गये और उनको ऐसा अख्तियार न दिया गया तो इसमें शक नहीं कि इसके इम्पलीमेंटेशन में बहुत देर लगेगी। इसमें भी कोई शक नहीं कि हरिजनों की इकोनोमिक हालत को बेहतर बनाने के लिये गवर्नमेंट को बहुत कोशिश करनी चाहिये। जहां किसी का इकोनोमिक स्टेटस अच्छा हो जाता है वहां दूसरी सोशल सहूलियतें उसको मिल जाती हैं और सोसाइटी उनको दे देती है। मैं समझता हूं कि गवर्नमेंट इस बात के ऊपर पूरा पूरा जोर नहीं दे रही है कि उनकी इकोनोमिक हालत जल्दी से जल्दी दुरुस्त हो जाय। गवर्नमेंट ने सरविसेज के अन्दर और दूसरी जगहों पर उनका कोटा मुकर्रर किया हुआ है लेकिन हम देखते हैं कि कोटा पूरा नहीं होता और उसके अन्दर तरह तरह की अड़चनें लगायी जाती हैं। अभी मेरे पास एक केस आया था। एक शिड्यूल्ड कास्ट के आदमी ने पबलिक सरविस कमीशन के पास दरख्वास्त भेजी और वह उस पोस्ट के लिये क्वालीफाइड था जिसके लिये दरख्वास्तें मांगी गयी थीं लेकिन उसको वहां से जवाब आया कि तुम ओवरएज हो, हालांकि उसको ओवरएज होने के लिए अभी तीन साल और थे। जो कन्सेशन हरिजनों को मिला हुआ है उसके मुताबिक वह ओवरएज नहीं था जब कि और लोग उस उम्र पर ओवरएज हो जाते हैं। जब मुझे यह बात मालूम हुई और मैं ने ऊपर लिखा कि यह क्या किया गया है तो उन्होंने कहा कि हमसे गलती हो गयी। मैं कहता हूं कि गलती नहीं हुई। वहां पर कोई आदमी इस किस्म का बैठा हुआ है कि जो यह नहीं चाहता कि हरिजन इस पोस्ट पर आ जायं। गांव के अन्दर हम देखते हैं कि लोग इस बात को पसन्द नहीं करते कि हरिजन फौज के अन्दर सूबेदार हो कर, वरदी पहन कर, तमगे लगा कर, अकड़ कर हमारे गांव से हो कर निकल सकें। वह यह नहीं पसन्द करते कि वे लोग अच्छे कपड़े और आभूषण पहन कर हमारे दरम्यान से गुजर सकें। यह बात अभी भी गांवों के अन्दर मौजूद है। शहरों के अन्दर कुछ सहूलियत मिल गयी है लेकिन गांवों के अन्दर यह बुराई उतनी ही फैली है जितनी कि इस मुल्क के अन्दर कभी थी। इसलिये मैं गवर्नमेंट से दरख्वास्त करता हूं कि यह जो हाइलेटरी सरकुलेशन मोशन है इसको मंजूर नहीं करना चाहिये और जहां तक हो सके इसके इंप्लीमेंटेशन के लिये ऐसी मैशिनरी पैदा की जाये और ऐसे अफसर रखे जायें जिनका हित इस बात में हो कि यह काम हो जाय और वह इसके लिये अपने दिल से महसूस करते हों। अगर ऐसा किया जायगा तो इस बिल का पास करना मुफीद होगा वरना इस कलंक को धोने में बहुत देरी लगेगी जो कि हमारे माथे पर मौजूद है।

Mr. Chairman: Before I call upon the next hon. Member to speak, I may bring a matter of some importance before the House.

Now, we discussed this motion about reference to the Select Committee on Friday the 28th instant, and then again we are discussing it today up to 10·45. I would like to know the mind of the House—if they propose to finish today or they want to proceed with the discussion for tomorrow also?

Several Hon. Members: Yes.

Sardar A. S. Saigal (Bilaspur): May I submit that this is an important Bill?

सेठ गोविन्द दास (मंडला-जबलपुर---दक्षिण): मैं समझता हूं कि इस पर और अधिक समय मिलना चाहिये । पहली बार सिर्फ एक घंटा मिला और . . . .

Mr. Chairman: Order, order. I have heard the hon. Member. Then I understand that the House wants that the discussion may continue tomorrow.

Several Hon. Members: Yes.

Mr. Chairman: So, we will finish tomorrow. It will conclude tomorrow.

Shri S. N. Agarwal.

The Minister of Parliamentary Affairs (Shri Satya Narayan Sinha): So, the House stands committed to that.

श्री एस० एन० अग्रवाल (वर्धा) : सभापति महोदय, मुझे खुशी है कि अस्पृश्यता निवारण के लिये यह बिल संसद् के सामने पेश हुआ है । यूं तो हमारे विधान में छुआछूत की जो भावना है उसको गैरकानूनी करार दिया गया है लेकिन हम यह जानते हैं कि इसके बावजूद आज हमारे देश में यह भावना दूर नहीं हुई है खास तौर से हमारे देहातों में जब कभी हम जाते हैं तो पाते हैं कि आज भी हरिजनों को कुओं से पानी नहीं भरने दिया जाता है । अगर पुलिस से पूछताछ करते हैं तो अछूतों को डराया, धमकाया जाता है और उनसे यह भी कहला दिया जाता है कि उनको कोई शिकायत नहीं है, इसलिये कानून के हिसाब से पुलिस कुछ खास कार्यवाही करने में भी असमर्थ हो जाती है । इसके अलावा और भी बहुत सी ऐसी घटनाएं हमारे देश में हो रही हैं कि जिन को देख कर बहुत दुःख होता है । कुछ ही महीने पहले हम भूले नहीं हैं कि किस तरह आचार्य विनोबा भावे जब देवघर के मंदिर में प्रवेश कर रहे थे हरिजनों के साथ तो किस तरह जोरों से उन पर वहां के पंडों ने हमला किया था और जहां तक मेरी जानकारी है, एक तरह से ईश्वर ही ने उनको बचाया नहीं तो उनको मार डालने में कोई कसर नहीं रक्खी गयी थी । इस तरह से आज भी इस तरह की घटनाएं हमारे देश में हों, बनारस में भी कुछ घटनाएं चल रही हैं, यह हमारे लिये सचमुच एक बहुत शर्म की बात है । यह हम समझते हैं कि हमारा देश राजनैतिक दृष्टि से आजाद हुआ लेकिन हमारे राष्ट्रपिता ने हमको बतलाया कि जब तक हमारे देश में सामाजिक और आर्थिक स्वतंत्रता और समानता नहीं होगी तब तक वह आजादी मुकम्मिल नहीं कही जा सकती और मैं यह समझता हूं कि यह जो बिल हमारे सामने पेश किया गया है यह कुछ जल्दी नहीं है किसी भी तरह से और शायद अच्छा होता अगर विधान के पास होने के बाद ही यह बिल अभी तक कभी का आ गया होता और इस पर अमल भी हो जाना चाहिये था, क्योंकि आखिरकार यह इतना बड़ा कलंक है कि विदेशों में अगर आप जायं तो माथा नीचे झुकाना पड़ता है । जब हम नीग्रोज की बातें करते हैं तो हमको सुनना पड़ता है कि आपके यहां क्या है । मैं यह समझता हूं कि हमको स्वीकार करना चाहिये कि छुआछूत सिर्फ एक सामाजिक चीज नहीं रह गयी है, लेकिन यहां लोग जो इसको मानते हैं कहते हैं कि सिर्फ इसमें सफाई का सवाल नहीं है । अगर एक अछूत को वह छू लें तो वह समझते हैं कि उनका आध्यात्मिक और आत्मिक भी कुछ पतन होता है । इससे ज्यादा खराब और लज्जा-जनक बात और हो नहीं सकती । मैं इस बिल का स्वागत करता हूं और यह आशा करता हूं कि इसके जो प्राविजन्स हैं सजा के बारे में उनके बारे में सिलेक्ट कमेटी और विचार करेगी। एक सदस्य ने अभी जैसे कहा मैं समझता हूं कि जो सजायें रक्खी गयी हैं वह बहुत कम हैं । यह इतना बड़ा एक पाप जो कि न सिर्फ समाज के खिलाफ है बल्कि यह मनुष्य मात्र के खिलाफ है और धर्म और ईश्वर के खिलाफ भी यह एक पाप है और इसके लिये जितनी सजा दी जाय

वह थोड़ी होगी । मैं पूछता हूं कि कोई इतनी बड़ी बात करे कि मंदिर में न घुसने दें, स्कूल में न पढ़ने दें, अस्पताल में न जाने दें, उसके लिये सिर्फ पांच सौ रुपये जुर्माना दें, यह एक मजाक सा लगता है और मैं समझता हूं कि एक हजार तो करें ही अगर और ज्यादा जुर्माना न हो और साथ ही जुर्माने के एक साल की सजा आप अनिवार्य कर दें, क्योंकि अकेले फाईन पर्याप्त नहीं होगा क्योंकि अगर कोई सनातनी भाई है, लक्षपती, करोड़पती है, वह देश का और मनुष्य मात्र का अपमान करता है उसको पांच सौ या हजार देकर छुटकारा नहीं मिल जाना चाहिये । जेल तो कम से कम होना ही चाहिये, उसके बारे में आप्शन नहीं देना चाहिये ।

10 A.M.

दूसरी बात मकानों के बारे में मैं यह कहना चाहता हूं कि देहातों में हरिजन बस्तियां इतनी छोटी हैं कि उनको और जगह गांव में मकान बनाने के लिये मिलती ही नहीं हैं । लोग बेचते हैं लेकिन हरिजनों को नहीं बेचेंगे, चूंकि वह उनकी और जो दूसरी बस्ती है, उसके बीच में वह मकान उनको नहीं बनाने देते और मुझे बड़ा ताज्जुब होता है कि हम बात करते हैं कि बड़े बड़े शहरों में हाउसिंग डिफिकल्टी है, मैं समझता हूं कि हरिजनों के लिये गांव में जितनी रहने की दिक्कत है उतनी बड़े बड़े शहरों में और लोगों को क्या होगी । शहरों में भी मकानों के सामने "टु लेट" लिखा रहेगा, लोग अखबारों में विज्ञापन निकालते हैं लेकिन जैसे ही कोई हरिजन भाई जायगा और उनको मालूम पड़ेगा कि यह हरिजन है तो झूठ कह देंगे कि मकान उठ गया या कहेंगे कि हम सोच कर बतायेंगे । मैं इसके बारे में बिल में कोई जिक्र नहीं देखता हूं । यह ठीक है कि आप मंदिर में उनको जाने की इजाजत दें, वैसे मुझे उसमें कोई दिलचस्पी नहीं है, मैं कितने वर्षों से किसी मंदिर में नहीं गया हूं जहां कि हरिजनों को नहीं जाने दिया जाता है । मैं समझता हूं कि उस मंदिर में देवता ही नहीं रहते जहां मनुष्य मनुष्य के बीच में फर्क और भेदभाव किया जाता है । लेकिन यह अलग बात है । जो रहने की जगह है वहां अगर इस तरह का कोई भेद किया जाय तो उसका जिक्र जरूर इस बिल में करना चाहिये, शहरों और देहातों दोनों के लिये ।

अन्त में मैं यही कहूंगा कि इस बिल को तो हम पास करेंगे ही, सिलेक्ट कमेटी की रिपोर्ट आने के बाद, लेकिन संसद् के सदस्यों की हैसियत से हमारा फर्ज उतने में ही अदा नहीं हो जाता है । हमारा यह काम है, कर्त्तव्य है कि अगर सचमुच हम चाहते हैं कि यह छुआछूत की भावना देश से चली जाय और यह कलंक हमारे माथे पर से हट जाय तब हमारे लिये यह जरूरी है कि अपने अपने निर्वाचन क्षेत्र में और देश भर में संसद् सदस्यों की हैसियत से हम एक ऐसा वातावरण बनाने की कोशिश करें कि लोगों के दिल व दिमाग से यह बुराई निकल जाय । सिर्फ कानून से ही यह बात होने वाली नहीं है । आखिर शराबबंदी का हमने देखा कि क्या हुआ ? कानून आप बना दीजिये, लेकिन जब तक लोगों में उसके लिये सामाजिक प्रचार न किया जाय, रचनात्मक कार्य न किया जाय तब तक यह चीज सिर्फ पुलिस के हाथ में देने से खत्म नहीं होगी । जैसा मैंने आप लोगों से कहा कि हरिजनों के ऊपर इतना अत्याचार किया जाता है और उनको इतना परेशान किया जाता है कि उनके मुंह से कहला लिया जाता है कि उनको कोई शिकायत नहीं है । मैं जानता हूं कि ऐसी हालत पैदा हो जाती है जिस में पुलिस या मजिस्ट्रेट कुछ भी नहीं कर सकते हैं । इसलिये यह बहुत जरूरी है कि जैसा गांधी जी हमको बताते थे कि अगर इस चीज को मिटाना है तो कुछ लोगों को त्याग करना पड़ेगा, शायद कुछ लोगों को जान भी देनी पड़े । इस छुआछूत को लोगों के दिल और दिमाग से निकालने के लिये मैं हरिजन भाइयों से भी कहूंगा कि हरिजन असेम्बलीज में जायें, पार्लियामेंट में जांय, पबलिक सर्विस कमीशन में मेम्बर हो जांय, मिनिस्ट्रीज में

[श्री एस० एन० अग्वाल]

हाँ, वह सब ठीक हैं और होना चाहिये, लेकिन खाली इससे काम नहीं चलेगा, जब तक करोड़ों हरिजन जो गांव में रहते हैं उनके दुःख दर्द को आप न सोचें कि वह किस तरह से रहते हैं। आज न उनको मकान बनाने की इजाजत हैं और न पानी भरने की इजाजत हैं। जब तक हम इन बातों के ऊपर जोर की आवाज नहीं उठायेंगे तब तक एक कमेटी का मेम्बर होने से यह मसला हल नहीं होने वाला हैं। इसलिये मैं सब सदस्यों से यही अपील करूंगा कि जब हम इस बिल को पास करें तो कर्त्तव्य समझ कर करें कि इसको पूरा करने के लिये हमको बहुत तत्परता से रचनात्मक काम समझ कर काम करना पड़ेगा, तभी यह जो कलंक देश के माथे पर हैं, दूर हो सकेगा।

श्री एम० बी० बैरथ (अहमदाबाद---रक्षित---अनुसूचित जातियां) : चेअरमैन साहब, यह जो अस्पृश्यता निवारक बिल हमारे होम मिनिस्टर साहब इस संसद में लाये हैं, उस के लिये मैं उन का अभिनन्दन करता हूं। किन्तु आज भी देश में हम लोगों की क्या हालत हैं इस को लोग नहीं जानते। हमारे श्री कान्त भाई ने जो रंगीली रिपोर्ट निकाली हैं उस में उन्होंने हरिजनों के दुःखों के बारे में लिखा हैं। आज भी हमारे देश में यह दशा हैं कि दक्षिण के एक गांव में पोस्ट आफिस हैं उस में हरिजन लोग जा कर खत नहीं डाल सकते क्योंकि वह रास्ता उन लोगों के लिये निषिद्ध हैं। मोहल्ले की परली तरफ एक पेटी रखी रहती हैं और उस पेटी में जा कर वह खत डालते हैं। अब प्रश्न होता हैं कि वह पोस्ट कार्ड आदि कैसे लाते होंगे ? उस को वह दूने तिगुने पैसे दे कर किसी से खरीद लेते हैं। आज यह भी दशा दक्षिण में हैं कि वह लग्न के अवसरों पर अगर छाता ले कर या पैर में जूते पहन कर निकलते हैं तो पीटे जाते हैं। यह हम लोगों की दशा हैं और ऐसी दशा में अगर आप लोग सोचें कि यह जो बिल संसद में आया हैं उस से इस के लिये कायदा बन जायेगा और अस्पृश्यता दूर हो जायगी तो यह नहीं हो सकता हैं। जब तक हृदय का कायदा न हो तब तक यह काम नहीं हो सकेगा। सरकार और हम सब लोग मिल कर इस को पास कर देंगे लेकिन हमारे हृदय में भी परिवर्तन होना चाहिये। जैसा अभी श्री एस० एन० अग्वाल ने सुनाया कि बापू ने अपने सारे जीवन में यह कह कर दुनियां को बताया कि मनुष्य को अस्पृश्य मानना बहुत बड़ा पाप हैं और इस के लिये प्रायश्चित करना चाहिये। यह बापू ही कह सकते थे, हम कैसे कहें कि आप लोग प्रायश्चित करें। लेकिन जैसे बापू के तप से हमें स्वराज्य मिला हैं, उसी तरह से राष्ट्रपिता की बात को हम कार्य रूप में लायें।

हमारे सरकारी अफसरों के हाथ में यह बिल जायेगा, वह लोग उस को पुलिस वगैरह की मदद से उस का पालन करायेंगे, लेकिन गांवों में क्या दशा होती हैं यह हम लोगों को मालूम हैं। हां, शहरों में थोड़ी तब्दीली मालूम होती होगी और किन्हीं होटलों आदि में हरिजन चले जाते होंगे। लेकिन गांवों में क्या दशा हैं ? वहां पर हालत यह हैं कि थोड़ी सी हरिजन जनता अगर गांव वालों के विरोध में कुछ गवर्नमेन्ट के अफसरों से कह दे तो उस का वहां रहना मुश्किल हो जाता हैं, उस का बहिष्कार किया जाता हैं। इस तरह की स्थिति होते हुए दुःख होने पर भी वह कुछ किसी से नहीं कह सकते। हां, सरकार ने इस बिल को पास करने का जो फैसला किया हैं वह ठीक हैं। लेकिन सरकारी आफिसरों और हमारे होम मिनिस्टर साहब जब कभी गांवों में चले जाया करें और वहां जा कर देखें कि वह हरिजन मोहल्ले जिन को वर्षों से लोगों ने देखा भी नहीं, वहां क्या क्या मुसीबतें हैं, किस ढंग से वह लोग रहते हैं, किस स्थान पर उन लोगों के रहने की जगह हैं। जहां ढोरों के रहने के लिये भी उस से बेहतर जगह होती हैं, ऐसी जगहों पर वह लोग रहते हैं। उन के इर्द गिर्द क्या होता हैं ? वहां सारे गांव का कूड़ा और कचरा डाला जाता हैं। कुंएं से पानी लेने के

लिये भी कितनी मुसीबतें उठानी पड़ती हैं। एक दफा हमारे ठक्कर बापा ने एक जगह जा कर देखा कि घंटों तक कुछ हरिजन स्त्रियां कुंएं के पास विनती करती रहीं कि हमें थोड़ा सा पानी दो, लेकिन कोई नहीं देता था। यह दशा है आज कल। इस बिल में बहुत सारे समझौते कर डाले हैं कि कुंएं पर भी और दूसरी सब जगहों पर भी हरिजनों को यह हक दिया जायेगा, लेकिन नौकरियों में क्या होगा। जब तक हमारी सामाजिक स्थिति ऊंची लाने के लिये हमारे पढ़े लिखे आदमियों को जल्दी से जल्दी हर एक मिनिस्ट्री में और हर एक आफिस में नौकरियां नहीं मिलेंगी तब तक यह छुआ छूत नहीं जायेगी। और अगर उन को नौकरी मिली भी तो वहां क्या दशा होती है यह भी मैं जानता हूं। वहां भी पानी पीने की मुसीबतें होती हैं और जो चौथे दर्जे का सिपाही है पट्टे वाले, उस का काम भी हरिजनों को नहीं दिया जाता है क्योंकि छुआ छूत वहां पर है। अगर सवर्ण पट्टे वाला है तो वह घर में जा कर काम कर सकता है, अरे भाई, वह अछूत पट्टे वाला भी घर में जा कर काम कर सकता है लेकिन घर में कैसे जाने दें? इसलिये जिन जिन सरकारी आफिसेज में आज कल भी छुआ छूत चल रहा है वह भी दूर होना चाहिये। हम हर एक अपने हृदय से समझें कि छुआ छूत को न केवल इस फायदे से बल्कि इस से अधिक अपने हृदय से, अपने घरों में से, अपने गांवों में से और अपने कुटुम्ब में से हमें दूर करना है। अगर हम हर एक इस छुआ छूत को दूर करने का निश्चय कर लें जो दोनों सदनों के हमारे साढ़े सात सौ सदस्य हैं वह मिल कर लाखों आदमियों तक अपनी आवाज को पहुंचा सकते हैं कि हम ने संसद् में जो कायदा आया था उस को पास कर दिया है। जो कायदा गवर्नमेन्ट को वर्षों पूर्व लाना चाहिये था, वह अब आ गया है, उस पर ठीक से अमल होना चाहिये। जब तक इस पर पूरी तौर से जोर नहीं दिया जायगा, पूरी तौर से अमल नहीं किया जायगा तब तक यह कायदा, जैसे और कायदे होते हैं, किताबों में ही रह जायेगा। अगर हमारी गवर्नमेन्ट चाहती है कि छुआ छूत को भारतवर्ष से निकाल दिया जाय तो इस के लिये उस को बहुत काम करना होगा।

हमारे श्रीकान्त भाई, जो हमारे पूज्य ठक्कर बापा के शिष्य हैं, हिन्दुस्तान के इर्द गिर्द गांवों में जा कर के भी देखा है कि हरिजनों की क्या दशा है। उन का सारा जीवन ही इस में गया है और हमारे सौभाग्य से उन्हीं को कमिश्नर बनाया गया है, लेकिन एक आदमी कहां तक काम कर सकता है? उन्होंने अपनी रिपोर्ट में लिखा है कि कितनी ही स्टेट्स ऐसी हैं कि अगर वह उन को कुछ लिखते हैं तो उस का जवाब ही उन के पास से नहीं आता है, और कोई कोई तो टाल भी जाती हैं कि हमारे यहां तो छुआ छूत है ही नहीं, पर तलास करने पर बहुत सी छुआ छूत वहां दिखलाई पड़ती है। यह सब टालने की बातें हैं। तो हमारे जो सदस्य यहां आये हुए हैं और जो हमारी सरकार है उस से भी मैं विनती करता हूं कि वह इस ओर ध्यान दें। हरिजनों के वहां अगर कोई सवर्ण अधिकारी चला जाता है तो यह उन के लिये बड़े आनन्द की बात होती है। मैं समझता हूं कि बड़ी बड़ी पार्टियों में हमारे अफसर चले जायें, इस के अलावा गांवों की हरिजन बस्तियों में भी जा कर हरिजनों की हालत को अपनी आंखों से देखें। आज हरिजनों की तादाद कम नहीं है, पांच सात करोड़ जनता जिस को अछूत बना कर रक्खा गया है, उस को आगे बढ़ाने के लिये ज्यादा से ज्यादा खर्च किया जाना चाहिये। लोग कहते हैं कि स्कालरशिप मिलते हैं, हां, ऐसे राज्य भी हैं जहां हरिजनों को प्रारम्भिक स्कूल से कालेज तक फ्री एजुकेशन मिलती है, स्कालरशिप भी मिलते हैं, लेकिन साथ साथ में ऐसे स्थान भी मौजूद हैं जहां फ्री एजुकेशन नहीं है। रिपोर्ट में लिखा हुआ है कि छुआ छूत इतना अधिक फैला हुआ है कि जिस की हद नहीं है। यहां की बात है कि एक रीजडेन्ट मैजिस्ट्रेट के कार्ट के एक कुंएं से एक हरिजन ने पानी ले लिया। वहां पुलिस इकट्ठी हो जाती है कि क्यों पानी लिया तुमने। इस को देखते हुए यह कहना दुरुस्त

[श्री एम० बी० वैश्य]

हैं कि दिये के नीचे ही अन्धेरा हैं । दिल्ली में जब यह बात होती हैं तो और जगहों की तो बात ही क्या हैं । इसलिये होम मिनिस्टर साहब से हमारी विनती हैं कि अगर इस कायदे को बना कर पुस्तक में ही नहीं रखना हैं और छुआ छूत को रोकना हैं तो इस पर ज्यादा से ज्यादा अमल करना होगा । साथ ही साथ हमारे सदस्यगण जिन के हाथ में छुआ छूत को उठाने का, और उस को दूर करने का पूरा अधिकार हैं, वह अपने घरों में से, अपनी बिरादरी में से, अपने गांवों में से भी उस को दूर करें ।

अब हरिजनों में यह पूरी समझ आ गई हैं कि उन को एजुकेशन लेना चाहिये । पहले हमारे माता पिता तो हमें पढ़ाना कबूल नहीं करते थे, हम को खुद ही अपनी शक्ति से पढ़ना पड़ता था । लेकिन आज हरिजन माता पिता अपने बच्चों को पढ़ाते हैं, उन को मदद भी मिल जाती हैं, लेकिन पढ़ने के बाद जब उन को नौकरी नहीं मिलती, तो वह हताश हो जाते हैं कि अपने छुटपन में तो हम मेहनत करते थे और अपने माता पिता की मदद करते थे, लेकिन इतना हम ने पढ़ा और पढ़ने लिखने के बाद इतनी उम्र होने पर और इतना खर्च करने के बाद भी हम को नौकरी नहीं मिलती हैं । ऐसी हालत होने पर उन को बड़ा दुःख होता हैं । इस से हमारे ग्रेजुएट और डबल ग्रेजुएट भी हताश हो जाते हैं । हमारे बाप् ने कहा था कि हमारे यहां स्वराज्य होने के बाद पहला कायदा जो होगा वह अस्पृश्यता निवारण का होगा । स्वतंत्रता के बाद सात वर्ष तक यह नहीं आ सका, लेकिन आज आ गया हैं । हरिजनों के लिये हमारे बाप् ने यह कहा था कि मुझे पुनर्जन्म नहीं चाहिये अगर मेरा हरिजन कार्य मेरे जीवन में ही खत्म नहीं होता तो मैं भगवान से प्रार्थना करूंगा कि मुझे दूसरा जन्म भंगी के घर में मिले जिस से मैं अधूरा काम पूरा कर सकूं । जिस को हम राष्ट्र पिता कह कर पुकारते हैं उस राष्ट्र पिता की यह मनःस्थिति थी । इसी के अनुकूल आप काम कर के दिखावें । आज इस देश में जितनी अस्पृश्यता हैं उतनी दुनियां में कहीं नहीं हैं । आप उस को एक कोने से दूसरे कोने तक बिल्कुल निकाल दें ।

श्री टंडन (जिला इलाहाबाद---पश्चिम) : सभापति जी, इस विधेयक का मैं हार्दिक स्वागत करता हूं । इसमें अस्पृश्यता को दूर करने के लिये बहुत से रास्ते बताये गये हैं । हमारे सहयोगियों ने अभी उस दिन और आज कई रास्ते सुझाये हैं । विशेषकर इस बात पर बल दिया हैं कि इस अधिनियम के स्वीकृत होने के बाद इसकी स्वीकार हुई बातों पर दैनिक जीवन में काम करने पर ध्यान दिया जाय । यह बात मुख्य हैं । सुनने में तो यह बात साधारण हैं, परन्तु इसकी आवश्यकता हैं ।

हरिजनों को देहातों में जो असुविधायें हैं वह हममें से बहुत लोग जानते हैं । नगरों में उनको जो असुविधायें हैं, घर की, कुंओं की, वे हमारे सामने आती ही रहती हैं । मैं तो चाहता हूं कि नगरों में और देहातों में भी हरिजनों के घरों पर विशेष ध्यान दिया जाय । उनको घर बनाने की सुविधा दी जाय । मैं ने पहले किसी दूसरे सम्बन्ध में इस बात पर बल दिया हैं कि हमारे समाज का रूप, विशेष कर देहाती समाज का रूप, बदलने की आवश्यकता हैं । जिस प्रकार के हमारे गन्दे गांव हैं वह आज बदलने की आवश्यकता हैं । सवर्णों के गांवों में भी लोगों के घर गन्दे और एक दूसरे से सटे हुए बने हैं । यह हमारे गांव तो बिल्कुल समाप्त कर देने के योग्य हैं । हम हर घर को अलग अलग रखें । मैं ने सुना हैं कि जहां आज इस विषय पर ध्यान दिया गया हैं वहां दीवार से दीवार मिला कर घर नहीं बनाये जाते हैं । अभी हमारे एक मित्र रूस से हो कर आये हैं । उन्होंने बताया कि वहां गांवों में घर सटे हुए नहीं बनाये जाते हैं । यह बात हमें बहुत अच्छी लगी । वहां गांव इस तरह के हैं ही नहीं जैसे हमारे देश में हैं । वहां हर घर के साथ भूमि लगी हुई

हैं । इसका कुछ नमूना हम अपने यहां उस राज्य में देखते हैं जिसे तिरुवांकुर-कोचीन कहते हैं । उसका नमूना तिरुवांकुर से लेकर कन्या कुमारी तक चला गया हैं । वह एक लम्बा फैला हुआ बाग सा दिखायी देता हैं । हरियाली और सौंदर्य बराबर गांवों के साथ मिले हुए दिखायी देते हैं ।

डा० काटजू : ऐसा ही बंगाल में भी हैं ।

श्री टंडन : मुझको यह निवेदन करना हैं कि हमारे गांव वाटिका गांव के रूप में बनें । हो सकता हैं कि ऐसा करने में कुछ देर लगे । लेकिन कम से कम हरिजनों के लिए छोटे छोटे भूमि के टुकड़े दिए जाएं। आज यह हो सकता हैं । कठिन कुछ नहीं हैं, अगर यह हमारे होम मिनिस्टर के दिमाग में आ जाय ।

डा० काटजू : मुझ से इसका क्या वास्ता हैं ।

श्री टंडन : यह बिल आप लाये हैं इसलिये मेरा निवेदन हैं कि केवल इस बिल को पास कराके आप संतोष न कर लें, कुछ दौड़ धूप करें, कुछ इस बात के लिये चिन्ता करें । गवर्नमेंट कुछ नमूने के गांव बना दें । बतावें कि हमने दो सौ हरिजनों की कैसी सुन्दर बस्ती बना दी हैं । एक एक घर में आप भूमि दें । मैं तो कहता हूं कि लगभग आधा एकड़ भूमि दें, लेकिन अगर आप आधा एकड़ नहीं दे सकते हैं तो चौथाई एकड़ दें । उनको घर बनाने में आप कुछ मदद करें । ज्यादा नहीं दे सकते हैं तो थोड़ा बहुत रुपया दें, बाकी वह खुद मेहनत कर लेंगे । लेकिन सौ दो सौ इस तरह के हरिजनों के घर आप बना दें । इससे कोई यह समस्या हल नहीं हो जायगी लेकिन इससे दूसरों को प्रेरणा होगी और उनको प्रोत्साहन मिलेगा । इस प्रकार एक तो मेरा यह सुझाव हैं कि आप इनके लिये अच्छे घर बनावें । इससे तीन-चौथाई अछूतपन दूर हो जायगा । दूसरा सुझाव भी हैं । यों तो बहुत सी छोटी छोटी बातें हैं पर मैं उन में नहीं जाना चाहता । और लोगों ने उनको कहा हैं और वह इस विधेयक में भी हैं, जैसे कुओं से पानी भरने का मौका देना आदि । इन सब का आज भी लोगों को गांवों में दुःख हैं । जहां अलग अलग कुएं नहीं हैं वहां यह कष्ट हैं । आज कुछ सुविधायें बढ गयी हैं । लेकिन एक बड़ी समस्या हैं जो मनुष्य की प्रकृति से सम्बन्ध रखती हैं । वह यह हैं कि हमारे देश में जो गन्दे से गन्दे काम हैं वे आप ने एक जाति के सुपुर्द कर रखे हैं । जितना गन्दा काम हैं पशु मारने का वह डोम के सुपुर्द हैं और मल मूत्र साफ करने का कुल काम भंगी के सुपुर्द हैं । यह एक जाति हैं जो इस गन्दे काम को करती हैं । अगर अभी एक भंगी चारों तरफ से बम्बुलिस साफ करके आपके पास आ बैठता हैं तो तुरन्त आपके मन में एक हिचक होगी । यह स्वाभाविक बात हैं । आप ने इस काम को करने वालों की एक जाति बना दी हैं । मेरा निवेदन हैं कि यह जो आपका सामाजिक ढांचा हैं इसको बदलने की आवश्यकता हैं । इसके ऊपर तो गहरे ध्यान देने की जरूरत हैं । इस विषय में इस बिल से कुछ नहीं बनने वाला हैं । जीवन का ऐसा क्रम होना चाहिए कि आपको इतने लोगों को हरिजन बनाने की आवश्यकता न पड़े । आज तो आपने इनको काम से हरिजन बना रखा हैं । जहां म्युनिसिपैलिटी हैं वहां आप देखिये । दिल्ली म्युनिसिपैलिटी को देखिये, नयी दिल्ली म्युनिसिपैलिटी को देखिये, इलाहाबाद म्युनिसिपैलिटी, लखनऊ म्युनिसिपैलिटी को देखिये । अगर यह किया जाय कि हरिजनों में जो भंगी जाति हैं वह अपना काम बन्द कर दे तो आपकी सभ्यता निर्मूल हो जायगी । आपका तो नगर का नगर गंदा पड़ा रह जायगा । आपकी सभ्यता, यह जितना बाहर आप बनाये हुए हैं रंगा चुंगापन, यह सब समाप्त हो जायगा अगर आज भंगी यह तय कर लें कि हम तो पाखाना उठाने का काम नहीं करेंगे । मैं भंगियों को सलाह देता हूं, यहां जो हमारे भाई बैठे हुए हैं और जो अछूत या हरिजन कहलाते हैं, "हरिजन" पहले से अच्छा नाम हैं, मैं उनको यह सलाह देता हूं कि हरिजनत्व या अछूतपन का नाश तभी होगा जब भीतर से आपके हृदय में निश्चय

[श्री टंडन]

होगा, एक कठोर निश्चय होगा कि हम इस नीचपन को बर्दाश्त नहीं करेंगे । इसकी आवश्यक हैं। हम सवर्णों को तो सलाह देते ही हैं, मेरी आपको सलाह हैं कि आप स्वयं अपने को ऊंचा करें और गंदी आदतें छोड़ें । शराब पीना वगैरह, बहुत ऐसी गंदी आदतें बना रक्खी हैं जिनसे आप नीचे गिरते हैं । यह जो जूठा उच्छिष्ट भोजन बचता हैं, बड़े बड़े नगरों में भोज होते हैं, न्योते और दावतें होती हैं और खाने के बाद जो कुछ पत्तलों में पड़ा हुआ रहता हैं, उसको भंगी लोग बीन बीन कर ले आते हैं । मैं उनको उच्छिष्ट पदार्थ के ग्रहण करने से रोकता रहा हूं लेकिन मैं देखता हूं कि हमारे हरिजन भाइयों की उसको खाने की आदत पड़ी हुई हैं । हमारे भाई क्या राजस्थान के क्या उत्तर प्रदेश के यह दृश्य देखा करते हैं, इसको बंद करने की आवश्यकता हैं । हम सवर्णों को सलाह देते हैं कि उनको ऊंचा उठायें, लेकिन उन्हें आपस में ही गहरा यत्न करना चाहिये कि वह उस उच्छिष्ट भोजन को, फेंके हुए भोजन को नहीं छुएंगे । यह प्रवृत्ति उनको नीचे गिराती हैं । इसके अलावा दूसरी बात मैं यह चाहूंगा कि वह पाखाना उठाने का काम बंद कर दें, यह पेशा खत्म हो । हैं कठिन बात, लेकिन यह होना चाहिये और मेरे लिये तो यह समाज का आदर्श हैं । मैं चाहूंगा कि मेरा पाखाना कोई दूसरा आदमी न उठावे । मैं खुद उसको उठाऊंगा यह भावना हमारे सवर्ण भाइयों में हो । हमारे हरिजन भाई तय कर लें कि हम इस पेशे को नहीं करेंगे, सेवा भाव से करना और बात हैं लेकिन हम पेशा इस बात का नहीं करेंगे कि हम दूसरों का पाखाना उठायें और दूसरे जो सवर्ण कहलाने वाले लोग हैं वह यह दावा करें कि हमारा पाखाना भंगी आये तो साफ हो, हमारा घर वह साफ करे, और अगर इनकार करें तो उसको पकड़ पकड़ कर हम जेलखाने भेजें, यह क्रम बिल्कुल नामुनासिब हैं और बंद होना चाहिये। इसके लिये साहस चाहिये । मैं चाहता हूं कि हरिजन खुद उठें और वह इस स्थिति के विरुद्ध बलवा करें कि एक जाति की जाति पाखाना साफ करने वालों की बना दी गयी हैं, वह समाज का पाखाना साफ करने से इनकार करें और कहें कि हम ऐसा नहीं करेंगे, अपना अपना पाखाना साफ करो और अपने घरों को साफ करो, तब हमें घरों को आवश्यकता के अनुसार बनाना पड़ेगा और मेरा जो घर का आदर्श हैं तब वह आ जायेगा । आज गंदे घर, गंदे गांव भरे पड़े हैं । बम्बई और कलकत्ता जैसे गंदे शहर देखता हूं तो मुझे सख्त हैरत और घबराहट होती हैं और एक नफरत होती हैं । वहां जो मैं, दो महले और आठ आठ महले मकानों को देखता हूं तो तबियत घबड़ा उठती हैं कि क्या यह आदमियों के रहने के घर हैं । यह घर इसीलिये बन पाते हैं कि या तो वहां आज पानी से पाखाना खींच खींच कर समुद्र में फेंकने का ढंग चलाया गया हैं, पाखाना जमींदोज करके नीचे नीचे खींच लिया जाता हैं या भंगी लोग आ कर पाखाना साफ करते हैं । प्रायः यह दोनों तरीके साथ साथ ही चलते हैं । आज बड़े बड़े नगरों में यह हो रहा हैं । इसीलिये गंदगी हैं और स्वास्थ्य की हानि हैं । मेरा कहना यह हैं कि बिल्कुल एक नये ढंग से समाज बनाना चाहिये, हमें हरिजनों की जरूरत नहीं हो । हमारा मल मूत्र वहीं कच्ची भूमि में चला जाय, भूमि में मल मूत्र जाना प्राकृतिक हैं और स्वाभाविक हैं और उससे उत्तम खाद उत्पन्न होती हैं । हमने अपने रहने सहने का ढंग गलत कर दिया हैं । अगर हरिजन लोग तैयार हों कि हम गंदा काम नहीं करेंगे तो उनका लाभ हैं, क्योंकि हरिजनत्व और अछूतपन भी समाप्त होगा, और उनके द्वारा हमारे उच्च वर्णों को भी बुद्धि आयेगी और ज्यादा सफाई के साथ वे रह सकेंगे । अपने हाथ से जब वह स्वयं अपना गंदा काम करेंगे तो बिलकुल सारे समाज की हालत बदल जायगी और घर बनाने की सूरत बदल जायगी और घर दूसरी तरह से बनेगा, बिना ऐसी भूमि के जहां मल मूत्र गाड़ा जा सके कोई घर तब नहीं बनेगा । इस समस्या का स्थायी हल मैं केवल

इस विधेयक के इन चंद पन्नों में नहीं दिखता, इन चार-पांच पन्नों में अछूतपन को दूर करने का स्थायी रास्ता नहीं है स्थायी रास्ता यह है कि जो सबसे छोटा और गंदा काम है जिसके कारण मनुष्य अछूत बन जाता है यानी मल मूत्र साफ करना और पशुओं की लाश ढोना, यह सेवा की भावना से हो तो उचित है लेकिन पैसे का लोभ दे कर किसी एक जाति से यह काम कराना अनुचित है। समाज के परिवर्तन की आवश्यकता है। इसमें गवर्नमेंट बहुत कुछ कर सकती है। हरिजनों के दृढ होने की बात है, हम लोगों को अपना रहन सहन बदलने की बात है और गवर्नमेंट की ओर से मार्ग प्रदर्शन होने की बात है।

Dr. N. B. Khare: Sir, I rise to support this Bill.

Several Hon. Members: In Hindi.

डा० एन० बी० खरे : मैं इस बिल की ताईद करने के लिये खड़ा हुआ हूं। मैं केवल अपनी ही तरफ से नहीं बल्कि जिस संस्था का मैं मेम्बर हूं उस संस्था की तरफ से और एक चितपावन ब्राह्मण होने के नाते उस ब्राह्मण कौम की तरफ से भी जिसकी घोर निन्दा आजकल दुनिया में होती है, उस कौम की तरफ से भी मैं इस बिल का समर्थन करता हूं। हिन्दू महासभा जिसको कि कहा जाता है कि रिवाइवलिस्ट है, वैरी रीएक्शनरी है और जाने क्या क्या उसको नाम दिये जाते हैं उसकी तरफ से भी मैं इस बिल को सपोर्ट करता हूं। हमें समझना चाहिये कि यह जो हमारे समाज और देश पर कलंक है, इसमें कुछ और देश और दुनिया के राष्ट्र भी सहभागी हैं, हम इसमें अकेले ही पापी नहीं हैं और दुनिया के बड़े बड़े देश भी इस पाप के भागीदार हैं जैसे कि अमरीका में आजकल भी नीग्रो "लिंच" हो सकते हैं, 'व्हाइट आस्ट्रेलियन पालिसी' मशहूर है, साउथ अफ्रीका में 'मलानिज्म' मशहूर है, अंग्रेजों के देश में भी अभी सूक्ष्म रूप से कुछ 'कलर बार' है ही, ईस्ट अफ्रीका में तो किकियू लोगों का हत्याकांड सर बाजार शुरू है, इसमें ब्रिटेन को फख्र होता है, ऐसी बातें हैं। ऐसी मिसालें तो बहुत दे सकते हैं, पाकिस्तान में हिन्दू इज्जत के साथ रह नहीं सकते यहां मुसलमान की वैसी हालत नहीं है। यह सब हैं और दूसरे जो हमने और देशों की मिसाल दी यह सब इसलिये है क्योंकि उनमें जाति द्वेष, वर्ग द्वेष और धर्म द्वेष या रीसियल हेट्रेड है लेकिन यह सौभाग्य की बात है कि हमारे यहां यह रीसियल हेट्रेड नहीं है। हम हरिजन और सवर्ण एक ही राष्ट्र और एक ही धर्म के हैं, यह जरूर है कि धर्म को गलत समझने के कारण हम यह भेदभाव करते हैं लेकिन धर्म को गलत समझना और उस रीसियल हेट्रेड में फर्क है और इसीलिये हिन्दुस्तान और अन्य देशों में इस सम्बन्ध में फर्क है, ताहम कोई हालत भी हो, एक बात स्पष्ट है कि इस कलंक को दूर करने की कोशिश इस देश में सदियों से की जा रही है। यह बिल यहां पर लाना यह कोई पहला मौका नहीं है मध्ययुग काल में भी हमारे महाराष्ट्र में एकनाथ नाम के सन्त और कवि हो गये हैं, उन्होंने अपने पितरों के श्राद्ध के दिन ब्राह्मणों के बजाय हरिजनों को भोजन खिला कर उनकी पूजा की थी। यह बात ऐतहासिक सत्य है। इसके अलावा और भी ऐसे बहुत साधु संतों के नाम ले सकता हूं, लेकिन मैं हाउस का ज्यादा समय नहीं लेना चाहता। मैं जिस संस्था को बिलांग करता हूं----हिन्दी में अंग्रेजी शब्द ला सकता हूं क्योंकि आजकल तो हिन्दी अंग्रेजी की खिचड़ी चलती है,----उस संस्था के जो मान्यवर नेता लोग थे उन्होंने भी बहुत वर्षों पहले इस काम को अपने हाथ में लिया था और उनके नाम यदि मैं लेना चाहूं तो मेरे सामने पंडित मदन मोहन मालवीय, लाला लाजपतराय, स्वामी श्रद्धानन्द आदि के नाम आ जाते हैं और खास कर सावरकर का नाम मेरे सामने आता है जिन्होंने रत्नागिरी में पहला मंदिर बनाया जिसमें हरिजनों को प्रवेश दिलाया और उन्होंने बड़े उत्साह और आग्रह से वहां पर हरिजनों के साथ सहभोजन किया रत्नागिरी के ब्राह्मण बहुत बिगड़े थे लेकिन वीर सावरकर ने उनके बिगड़ने की कुछ परवाह नहीं की। उन का यह तत्व आज भी है, वह क्या है ? हिन्दू समाज में स्पर्शबन्दी, रोटीबन्दी, बेटीबन्दी और धन्धाबन्दी, यह जो चार टैबू हैं वह न होने चाहियें, इसी मत को मैं भी मानता हूं। अभी

[डा० एन० बी० खरे]

मैं ने उठ कर बीच में मजाक किया था, तो हमारे भाई को बहुत बुरा लगा क्योंकि वह मजाक समझते नहीं हैं, अक्ल नहीं उन में । उन को बुरा लगे तो लगे, लेकिन मैं सिन्सिअरली विश्वास करता हूं कि हिन्दुओं का संगठन तभी हो सकता है जब हिन्दू समाज में से यह चार एंब निकल जायेंगे । पता नहीं वह वक्त कब आयेगा, लेकिन आयेगा जरूर । अगर नहीं आयेगा तो हिन्दू समाज जीवित नहीं रहेगा, यह निश्चित समझिये । ऐसी कोशिशें आज भी हो रही हैं । पहले जितना विरोध होता था अन्तर्जातीय विवाह का उतना आजकल नहीं हैं । आजकल जो उच्च वर्ण के सवर्ण लोग हैं उन में अन्तर्जातीय विवाह होता है । लेकिन एक बात है, विवाह तो सारी दुनियां में एक जैसा है । विवाह यानी :

it depends upon suitability, adaptability, mutual approval, mutual compromise and social status.

यह होना चाहिये और हमेशा रहेगा । कोई ऐसा नहीं कहेगा कि तू भंगी है और मैं ब्राह्मण हूं । भंगी का कार्य खाली पाखाना साफ करना है । वह कहे कि लड़की उसे दूं ? तो यह हो नहीं सकता और यह होना भी नहीं चाहिये । कोई किसी से खामख्वाह घमंड न करें । जब समाज इस प्रकार का होगा, जैसा टंडन जी ने बताया यह कब होगा, यह मुझे मालूम नहीं, लेकिन अगर हो तो मुझे उस से कोई विरोध नहीं है, लेकिन जरा असम्भव सा मालूम होता है । यही फर्क है । मुझे इस का खास चाव है, मैं बड़ा पुराना पापी हूं, पुराना कांग्रेस वाला हूं.....

एक माननीय सदस्य : अब थोड़ा पुन्य कीजिये ।

डा० एन० बी० खरे : उस वक्त कांग्रेस की जो हाई कमान्ड थी, सन् १९२२-२३ के बाद जब जेल से बाहर निकाले गए तो महात्मा गांधी ने इस सवाल को हाथ में लिया, मुझे बड़ा फख्र है कि मेरी तबियत उस आन्दोलन में थी और मैं ने तहे दिल से महात्मा गांधी को सहयोग दिया । चुनांचे उन के दौरे का सिलसिला मेरे प्रान्त से शुरू हुआ और वहां से शुरू होने के बाद सब देश में फैला । इस की मिसाल पहले मैं ने ही देश के सामने रखी, इस का आज भी मुझे गौरव है । लेकिन आज मैं कांग्रेस में नहीं हूं इस का खेद नहीं है, लेकिन गौरव जरूर है । मैं कोई धनवान नहीं हूं, बिड़ला नहीं हूं, लखपती नहीं हूं, लेकिन चूंकि मेरे प्रान्त से यह आन्दोलन शुरू हुआ था इसलिये मैं ने एकमुश्त ६,००० रुपये महात्मा गांधी को दिये, इतनी रकम मेरे प्रान्त में किसी ने नहीं दी । महात्मा गांधी के दौरे के वास्ते मैं ने एक बिल्कुल नई ब्यूक कार खरीदी, यह कार महात्मा गांधी को बहुत अच्छी लगी, उन्होंने कहा कि यह गाड़ी मुझे दे दो । मैं ने कहा कि मैं एक व्यवहारिक आदमी हूं, मैं ने गाड़ी तुम्हारे लिये नहीं खरीदी है, दौरे के लिये खरीदी है । जब तक दौरा होगा आप हमारी गाड़ी अपने पास रखिये, उस के बाद नहीं । मजाक की बात थी । उस के बाद जब मैं प्राइम मिनिस्टर हो गया मध्य प्रदेश में.....

सरदार ए० एस० सहगल : चीफ मिनिस्टर ।

डा० एन० बी० खरे : नहीं प्राइम मिनिस्टर । फिर उस के बाद क्या हुआ । शुरू से मेरी इच्छा यह थी कि मैं अपनी मिनिस्ट्री में एक हरिजन ले लूं । लेकिन किसी अड़चन की वजह से मैं नहीं ले सका । मेरी वजह से नहीं, औरों के रवैये की वजह से । मौलाना की ओर से मुसलमान को रखने का आग्रह हुआ, लेकिन हरिजन को रखने का आग्रह किसी ने नहीं किया । मेरे दिल की मेरे दिल में ही रह गई । लेकिन एक साल बाद ऐसा मौका आया कि मुझे एक दूसरी मिनिस्ट्री बनाने का काम करना पड़ा, इस मामले में मैं नहीं जाना चाहता बहुत मशहूर किस्सा है । उस वक्त मैं ने मिनिस्ट्री बनाई और एक हरिजन ले लिया और आज वह कौंसिल आफ स्टेट का मेम्बर है, उस का नाम है अग्निभोज । वह मिनिस्ट्री मिनिस्ट्री नहीं थी, वह नौ दिन का वन्डर था ।

सेठ गोविन्द दास : नवग्रह था ।

डा० एन० बी खर्रे : नौं दिन के बाद कांग्रेस हाई कमान्ड ने मुझे स्तीफा देने को मजबूर किया, और मैं ने दे भी दिया । मैं आफिस की परवाह नहीं करता था । क्या रखा है पांच सौं रुपये में ? जो पांच हजार कमाता हो, उस को पांच सौं रुपयों से क्या मतलब ? मैं ने लात मार दिया । इस सब बात को देख कर मुझे दुःख होता है । यह बिल में समझता हूं कि बड़ा सराहनीय है, लेकिन मुझे डर है कि किसी कानून की किताब की धूल ही न खाता रहे क्योंकि मेरा अनुभव है कि जिस वक्त में ने कांग्रेस की मिनिस्ट्री बनाई थी उस समय भी यही पार्टी थी और यही प्रोग्राम था । अगर मेरी हाई कमान्ड से कुछ नाराजी हुई तो कोई परवाह नहीं । उन्होंने कहा कि स्तीफा दे दो, दे दिया । हाई कमान्ड ने मेरी नदामत की, और मुझे अफसोस के साथ कहना पड़ता है कि महात्मा गांधी ने कहा कि तुम ने अपनी मिनिस्ट्री में हरिजन इसलिये लिया कि इस में तुम्हारा सेल्फ इन्टरेस्ट है । मैंने कहा सेल्फ इन्टरेस्ट मेरा है या भीतर की कांग्रेस का ? उन्होंने कहा तुम ने इसलिये हरिजन को लिया है कि तुम को उन का सपोर्ट मिले और अपने स्वार्थ के लिये तुमने उस दलित और अग्यानी जाति में आफिस की अभिलाषा उत्पन्न करके उस जाति के अधःपात की तैयारी की है । आजकल की सरकार का यह तरीका है । यह कहां तक सिन्सिअर है इस के बारे में मैं कुछ कहना नहीं चाहता । मैं ने पूरा तमाशा आप के सामने रख दिया । ऐसी हालत को देखते हुए यह हक हाउस को है कि तय करे कि इस बिल के अन्दर कितनी सिन्सिअरिटी है ।

अब मैं ज्यादा समय नहीं लेना चाहता । मुझे जो कुछ कहना था कह लिया । सिर्फ एक बात सावरकर के शब्दों में कह कर खत्म करता हूं ।

I shall appeal to my scheduled caste friends in this House not to rely too much on Governmental promises or on legislative measures or on hopes of executive implementation. I appeal to them to act according to the advice of *Veer* Savarkar. He has urged them to shed their interim inferiority complex. *Veer* Savarkar as President of Ratnagiri Mahar Conference in 1931 appealed to our scheduled caste friends in the following terms:

> "Your weakness is worse than the wickedness of the caste Hindus. For your own welfare you must also suffer with fortitude and faith. You want rights, but you are not prepared to pay the price. Be men. Know that you are men. If someone scolds you for your proximity on the public road, tell him that the public road is not the property of his father. Do not abandon your occupations. Stick to them and improve them. Every occupation has its value. Live a clean and temperate life. Never disown your fathers, saints and blood. Do not observe untouchability among yourselves. Always treat with equality and kindness all the sub-castes amongst your own so-called Depressed Classes. That is also your duty. Forget it not."

Shri Laskar (Cachar-Lushai Hills—Reserved—Sch. Castes): Sir, I rise to support this Bill but I oppose the Motion to circulate the Bill for the purpose of eliciting public opinion because that will involve some delay. I believe the Members of the Select Committee will surely make some improvements and modifications.

In supporting the Bill I would like to bring out certain points. We have attained freedom and we have also passed our Constitution. In the Constitution it is also provided that untouchability is abolished and its practice in any form is forbidden. The 'Father of the Nation' Mahatma Gandhi, made this almost his life work. He spent much of his time in the *bhangi* colonies. Again, our hon. Prime Minister has spoken a great deal about this. He has given much stress against casteism, untouchability and other things in his recent speeches. I do not like to mention other things but I would like to draw the attention of the House to the report of Shri Srikant, Commissioner for the

[Shri Laskar]

Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. He has mentioned in his report, elaborately and without any hesitation, about the true conditions of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.

Mr. Chairman: The hon. Member may continue tomorrow.

GOVERNMENT ORDER MODIFYING DECISION OF LABOUR APPELLATE TRIBUNAL ON BANK DISPUTES

Mr. Chairman: Let us proceed to discussion on Government Order modifying the decision of the Labour Appellate Tribunal on bank disputes.

I would just bring to the notice of the House that we have got 2½ hours at our disposal and the number of those who want to take part in this debate consists of more than 10 Members. Even if we allow each Member to Speak for, say, 10 to 15 minutes, it would not be physically possible to allow more than 10 Members to take part in it. I would, therefore, request all hon. Members, who take part in this debate, to kindly take only the minimum time they possibly can. I hope that the ordinary time taken will not exceed fifteen minutes, but in special cases, it may be extended to twenty minutes. I think this will satisfy all hon. Members who propose to take part in the debate.

Shri H. N. Mukerjee (Calcutta—North-East): I hope I have an allotment of twenty minutes.

We have sponsored this discussion in order to secure, if we can, the reopening by Government of the question of its modification of the Labour Appellate Tribunal's Bank Award and also to warn that, if it is not done, very serious consequences might rightfully and inevitably follow. On this issue, many Members of the Government Party are with us. I hope that my friend, Shri K. P. Tripathi, will speak in this discussion, because only this morning I found from a contribution, which he has made to a local journal, a very important series of points which would help a real understanding of the problem that we are discussing.

We have heard of differences inside the Cabinet, but as far as I am concerned, I have no illusion on that point. I am sure if Mr. Giri, for example, speaks, he will say some honeyed words reminding me at any rate of the lines of Lewis Carroll;

> "I weep for you" the Warlus said.
>
> "I deeply sympathise";
> With sobs and tears he sorted out
> Those of the largest size; Holding
> his pocket-handkerchief Before his
> streaming eyes.

We have had a spate of such demonstrations and I have no illusions. The Cabinet is united, with granite-like determination, in order to implement the decision which they have announced. Anyhow, the worst fears that were entertained by bank employees when some three months ago, Government extended, by ordinance, the time given to it under the Industrial Disputes Act to consider the award, have been confirmed by the latest order. Government has changed a bad award for one which is very much worse. Government has drastically cut the dearness allowance and other emoluments awarded to bank employees by the Labour Appellate Tribunal. Government has totally exempted banks situated in areas with a population of less than 30,000 in Part B and certain Part C States from the operation of this award, even as modified by Government, and it has also exempted, for somewhat mysterious reasons, an institution called the United Bank of India in the same day. The tycoons of Indian banking have been showing their teeth and venting their wrath at the insolence of the employees fighting for their bread and fighting for their rights, and Government has listened very dutifully to their 'Master's Voice'. I have not got the time to go into the details regarding

the way in which it happened. On the 7th April, 1954, the toxin was sounded by the Chairman of the United Commercial Bank, Mr. G. D. Birla, and then we found in *The Banker* an article by the General Manager of the Bank, Mr. B. D. Thakur, about whom certain allegations were made by the Inspection Committee of the Reserve Bank of India in 1951—allegations which were so serious that they should be gone into very earnestly by the Government of the day. Mr. B. D. Thakur protested saying that bank employees should be taken out of the purview of the industrial legislation. I have got a whole series of publications, including *The Eastern Economist*, in particular, which show how the wind was blowing in the capitalist camp. At one time, *The Eastern Economist* remarked that there are certain *obiter dicta* in the Tribunal's award regarding disclosures which were bound to make bank managements "anxious". Of course, they would be "anxious" because the disclosures would show how the bank tycoons have been behaving.

Then, again, we find that there is a process of inflating the figures regarding the operational costs of the banks. In the beginning it was bruited about in the Shroff Committee Report—it was a banker's report all the same—that 10 per cent. was going to be the increase in the actual cost. Then *The Eastern Economist* comes forward with other articles which suggest that it is going to be 17 per cent.—this was on the 18th June. This was pursued by the bank magnates to produce an atmosphere in which the Government would be intimidated into taking a step against the interests of the employers. On the 28th May, *The Eastern Economist* said that the task of the Government of India in whittling down the award either permanently or temporarily "is not going to be easy." Even then, they had an idea that it was "not going to be easy", but later—I do not know what happened and I do not know what influences were brought to bear upon the Treasury Benches—the tone of the capitalist Press changed altogether, and we find the result of it in the publication of the decision which the Government has given to us. Employees, anticipting danger, were in consternation and they eagerly went about trying to put their case before the country, and then they decided on seeing the Prime Minister. The Prime Minister reprimanded them for their demonstrations of unity and militancy and so on and so forth, and offered them, as usual, words of very equivocal encouragement regarding their prospects. Perhaps they expected the healing effect of what is supposed to be the 'Nehru touch' in regard to things in this country and abroad, but on this occasion, at any rate, the 'Nehru touch' was a touch that produced the most deleterious effects, not only on the minds of the bank employees, but also on their living conditions. The 'Nehru touch' has produced a situation where the bank employees are now facing a most desperate and most drastic effect on their living conditions—all their hopes are gone, torn to the minutest shreds and they are in a desperate situation, of which the Government has got to take note.

Government has come out with reasons for the unusual step of tampering with the award, not for social justice, as at any rate Mr. Jagjivan Ram had said in 1950 or 1951 that Government could change the awards but only for the sake of "social justice." On this occasion, it was not for the purpose of social justice, but it was against the fundamental principles of social justice that Government came to this decision. That is why I say that this document, in which Government gives the reasons for modifying the decisions of the Appellate Tribunal, is a shameful document, which will deceive nobody. It starts with the bogey of bank failures. We know very well about bank failures between 1947 and 1951. There were nearly 180 failures of banks, and Rs. 93 crores were lost by depositors. I come from the State of West Bengal, where 86 banks went

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into liquidation, but who was responsible for it and who suffered on account of such failures?—the depositors and the poor bank employees. The Deputy Finance Minister, who sits there, knows very well that the poor bank employees of the liquidated banks have been in the most distressful, imaginable situation. In regard to this liquidation, the Banking Companies Liquidation Proceedings Committee had said that this disaster was due to "the bankers' bid to get the control of non-banking companies by acquiring their shares at inflated price, the interlocking of share between, banks and other companies, the grant of large loans to persons connected with the management of banks without adequate security, extensive window-dressing at the time of preparing balance-sheets and, in general, a tendency to utilise the banks' funds to the detriment of the interests of the depositors'. This is what they have done, and I ask the Finance Minister to go and find out the inspection reports of the Reserve Bank of India in regard to the United Commercial Bank, in particular, for 1951, where it has been said that directors and their relatives and others are getting all the advantages out of the banking transactions performed by that company. It is only one instance of the many which shows how immoral, and how utterly unscrupulous is Big Business at its topmost layers and how these things have got to be counteracted if we are going to have a plan of any description for amelioration in the condition of our people.

The depositors' case has been brought up in order to prejudice the case of the bank employees but Government chooses to forget that it is bank and administrators who gamble with depositors' money, that they have highly paid officials even in backward areas. Even in those areas where Government wants the award to be inoperative, they have secret reserves of such dimension as nobody can find out anything about.

In regard to secret reserves, the Labour Appellate Tribunal has made some very caustic remarks. It says that is was only fair for the banks to come forward with some idea of such reserves, because the banks' capacity to pay could not otherwise be correctly ascertained. In paragraph 85, the Tribunal says:

> "Neither before Sastry nor before us have the banks shown their undisclosed reserves or the profits without these deductions.. Banks feel that they now have the form of the Banking Companies Act to shield themselves against an enquiry on this subject."

I say that there must be an enquiry into the subject of these secret reserves. What are these secret reserves? I find the Finance Minister taking very serious notes of this point. I am not a financial expert. But here is a book called *Advanced Accounting* by Jamshed R. Batliboi. I quote from its fourteenth edition, 1950. At page 621 it says:

> "Where there is a Secret Reserve, the financial position of the concern is, no doubt, better then as appearing from the Balance Sheet.
>
> Secret Reserves are usually formed in several ways as follows:—
>
> (a) By making an excessive provision for bad and doubtful debts.
>
> (b) By over-depreciating assets.
>
> (c) By under-valuation of stock.
>
> (d) By an incorrect allocation of expenditure between capital and revenue, it being a common practice to charge everything possible against revenue when such reserves are desired.
>
> (e) By the retention of appreciating assets at cost price.
>
> (f) By making a provision for contingencies for beyond what is really required.
>
> Secret Reserves are technically improper, yet within certain limits,

they are not only justifiable on the ground of expediency, but also of prudence."

Then it says:

"The objections raised against the practice of creating Secret Reserves are:

The system of secret reserves might be abused by unduly suppressing the net profits to such an extent that those behind the scenes might be in a position to purchase shares below their real value; or again by recourse to an internal reserve already established, the market value of the shares of a failing business could be maintained until unloading by those in management has taken place."

Here is an essay in fraudulence, here is a wounderful example of capitalistic probity in financial matters. This reminds me of what was said long ago by Karl Marx:

"If money, according to Augier, (a French writer) comes to the world with a congenital blood-stain on its cheeck, when capital comes it drips with blood and dirt from every pore."

If this is the way in which capitalism functions, if this is the way in which, by keeping back the facts regarding secret reserves the living conditions of our bank employees are sought to be attacked, then God help those who are trying to shield these people, who are behaving in this particular manner.

Government says in its statement of reasons that reduction of establishment costs is absolutely necessary. Why? Every time all these tribunals have said that there is no necessity for it. Why does Government behave as if it is more royalist than the King? When the bankers appeared before the Appellate Tribunal, they asked for what? They asked for certain concession; they said they were incapable of paying anything beyond what the Sastry Tribunal had given. I have not the time to go into it further. My friend, Mr. Asoka Mehta, I hope, will give details of it. They did not want anything more than that. But Government now brings about a situation where even the Sastry Tribunal is out-Heroded by the Herodian kind of activity which the Government have shown. The Government have brought up four categories exempting or excluding certain banks in rural areas. The reason is, expansion of credit facilities. In regard to this, there are observations made by the Appellate Tribunal.

11 A.M.

In paragraphs 94 and 104, the Tribunal has said:

"The contention of the small banks that we would altogether exclude from consideration the employees of those banks, whose exclusion has been recommended by the Rural Banking Enquiry Committee, is untenable. We have given careful thought to the subject and agree with the Sastry Tribunal that such exclusion would not be right."

Now, I ask the Government: do not allow the bank barons to blackmail the country; do not allow these tycoons to hold a pistol against the heart of the country and ask for their pound of flesh. But this is what they are trying to do.

What about the expansion of credit facilities? Do you expect these bank lords, with their eye only on profits, to open branches just because they would benefit the country? Are they in business for the good of their soul, for salvation and for amelioration of the conditions of the people of this country? They are in business for hard gain: for nothing else. There is no doubt about it. Maximum profit in their *mantram*. That is the only motto which they have got. It is for Government to come forward with a plan which would operate in such a way that these backward areas could be developed.

What is the Bank's record in regard to the financing of agriculture and marketing? The Reserve Bank of India

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publication in regard to the trends and progress of banking in India, for 1953, says that the percentage of total bank advances to agriculture was two per cent. in 1953, four per cent. in 1952, and two per cent. in 1951. That is the kind of picture that you get, and you expect these people to go and open branches. There only purpose is to make much more profit than they are now having. How do they behave? Even in those backward areas, the Travancore Bank, Ltd., for example which has got 45 officers give them a total salary of Rs. 2,22,500, while 350 employees get Rs. 2,52,798. I have so many figures but I do not have the time to get into details. How about the behaviour of the great big banks about which we are supposed to be proud? The Central Bank of India: the first ten employees in this bank get an annual salary of Rs. 5,44,700. The Bank of Baroda, with which some of our hon. Members here are closely associated, paid its first ten officers Rs. 4,20,300. The United Commercial Bank, Ltd., pays its first ten officers Rs. 3,77,600. I can give you so many other figures, but I have not got the time. The Managing Director of the Imperial Bank of India gets Rs. 21,834 per mensem—much more than what the *Rastrapati* is getting over here! The General Manager of the Bank of India is getting Rs. 15,750. The Managing Director of the Central Bank of India gets Rs. 10,667. A clerk in a A class area in the Central Bank of India would get under the modified award of the Labour Appellate Tribunal Rs. 126 per mensem, and a peon would get Rs. 81 per mensem. This is the picture of your welfare State. This is how you are going to operate, and naturally, the bank employees do not wish to be the scapegoats. Government gives an annexure here to show how the bank employees are going to get a very good deal. But it is a fake. It is a fake, because it is calculated on the principal that, starting from here, for 25 years you get certain increments. The whole scale is calculated in that way. Nobody is going to get that kind of increment, because nobody is entitled to get more than four increments, and most of those who are in employment have already got their four increments. Present employees cannot expect to get anywhere in this category. This is a case of statistics not being one among three brands of lies the others being lies and damned lies, but statistics is in this case a damned lie altogether.

I find also an exemption in regard to the United Bank of India. What about it? I say this is a very serious matter. This United Bank of India had for its Chairman of the Board of Directors, a former member of the Government of India who is very influential in Government circles even now.

I make a charge here and now that there are people associated with the administration of this country—there is a Deputy Finance Minister here, there is a Chief Minister of West Bengal—who are personal guarantors according to my information, for enormous sums of money lent out under the auspices of the United Bank of India. I make a charge, I make this assertion, that four Directors of the United Bank of India who are still sitting there and collecting their fees and whatever allowances and honoraria they are entitled to—I would not mention their names, if the Finance Minister is particular I shall pass it on to him—took a gratuity without retiring from the Board of Rs. 1,40,000, Rs. 50,000, Rs. 60,000 and Rs. 50,000 respectively. These four gentlemen took this gratuity for retiring from the four old banks. The four banks combined to form an A class Bank. For that, special concessions were given by the tribunal up to the Labour Appellate stage. Now Government says: "You get out of the clutches of labour legislation altogether; we give you complete unalloyed exemption." I make this charge seriously. I say there are instances of people high up in Government circles, even

inside the Government as it is today, who are connected with this Bank—I know this Bank, I am a customer of theirs—and who have been behaving in a manner which does not redound to the cause of honesty and scrupulousness in financial administration.

Sir, I shall conclude. I say, Sir, that Government like the bosses of the Reserve Bank of India, imagine that when there is an impingement into the pockets of the tycoons the interests of the country suffer but the people of this country will not allow it. The people of this country will not allow it, because their mills may grind slowly, but Sir, when they grind, they grind exceedingly small. The line between hunger and anger is so thin that you do not know what is going to happen. You have chosen a bunch of people for deprivation because they belong to the middle classes. You think these middle class people cannot go on strike, they cannot demonstrate in the streets of Calcutta or Bombay, that unlike the factory coolie they have to keep up their respectability, that they cannot strike to protect their interests. That is your calculation. If you think that by this means you are going to drive a wedge into the trade union movement of this country, you are living in a particular paradise and the sooner you quit it the better for you.

Shri Asoka Mehta (Bhandara): Mr. Chairman, Sir, my hon. friend Prof. Hiren Mukerjee has made certain observations. I would like to go into details of the modifications that have been made by the Government in the recent order. But before I go into those modifications, I would like to make two preliminary observations.

Sir, I believe, though legally Government are justified, in modifying the award, it has been a very unwise step. It is a matter of the deepest regret to me, that the bank employees should have considered it worthwhile to approach the Government with suggestions for modification of the award. Sir, this particular decision has been given by the highest appellate tribunal in the country. If the decisions of the Labour Appellate Tribunal are to be modified by the executive order, I do not think, any self-respecting judge would be willing to work on these tribunals: I do not think, any self-respecting worker, any self-respecting employee would want to come before these tribunals.

Then, again, we are committed—at least some of us are committed—to a democratic way of life and the independence and the prestige of the judiciary are of paramount importance.

Shri S. S. More (Sholapur): For opposition only, not for Government!

Sari Asoka Mehta: It is a matter of deep regret to me that by a wanton act, by a deliberate act, the independence and the prestige of the judiciary have been seriously undermined. May I invite the attention of the House to the history of this dispute? If we look at the eight-year-old dispute what do we find? The very first dispute between the bankers and the employees, with which my hon. friend Shri Abid Ali was intimatey associated, in the Bank of India in Bombay, a settlement by mutual agreement was arrived at. Mr. Justice Divatia came in only to confirm, or pass a consent award. This bank, the Bank of India, has today the best labour productivity among all the banks. Why is that so? Because in 1946 this bank was prepared to reach an agreement, which was the first agreement. After thirty years of service an employee of the Bank of India, would earn Rs. 1,00,500 in the course of his thirty years service. Under the Sastry Award, he would get only Rs. 93,54,000. As early as 1946, the Bank of India had thought it worthwhile to reach an agreement, and over this a consent award was given.

In the United Provinces the Conciliation Board was able to reach certain decisions by agreement, by mutual agreement between the employers and the employees. But the

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Government of India intervened and took over exclusive jurisdiction of bank disputes. Sir, may I point out that in the last eight years there have been seven tribunals; there have been seven provincial awards and their interpretations. There have been four all India tribunals. This is not the way in which this question can be settled. The history of this dispute teaches us that the only way in which this question can be settled is either by mutual agreement among the employers and the employees or by tripartite negotiations and deliberations.

Sir, of the seven modifications that have been made may I point out that the very first modification is to exculde a large number of banks in areas with less than 30,000 population. The Government of India in their explanatory note tell us that when the application was made by the Government to the Labour Appellate Tribunal, the application was dismissed on technical grounds. That is not a fact. Sir, the Labour Appellate Tribunal in the course of their order say:

> "We have, therefore, the position that out of 129 banks, all except one raised no ground of appeal concerning the matters which the Central Government is now pressing by its application."

The Banks did not ask for this exclusion. The Government of India on their own went and demanded exclusion. Secondly, Sir, it has been conceded before us by Jamshedjee Kanga, who represented the Government there, that the Central Government has no power to compel the banks to open branches anywhere. Thirdly, Sir, none of the banks at the hearing had contended that they would have to close down branches because of the Sastry Tribunal's refusal to adopt the view of the Rural Banking Enquiry Committee. We asked Jamshedjee Kanga whether it was the contention of the Central Government that we should allow the operation of the law of supply and demand to prevail even where the wages which were being paid by the employers would be below subsistence level and we received a reply that the wages could be well below the subsistence level as it was in the public interest that it should be so. I would like to know, Sir, from the Government, from the Benches opposite, whether it is the policy of this Government to permit wages to remain the emoluments of the Indian workers to fall below even the subsistence level whether Kanga was justified in saying what he said. After all, by issuing the order that you have issued, you have only confirmed what Mr. C. Kanga was arguing there.

The Sastry Tribunal had refused all the arguments that had been put forward. The Labour Appellate Tribunal also has turned down the suggestions made by the Rural Banking Enquiry Committee. In spite of it, in spite of such a thorough judicial review, in spite of the fact that no bank had asked for a review of this question, in spite of the fact that the bankers gave an assurance that they were not thinking of closing a single branch, the Government have deliberately modified this aspect of the award.

I wish now to say a few words about the United Bank of India. I need not repeat what has been already said by my hon. friend Prof. Hiren Mukerjee; but may I point out that a considerable amount of solicitude was shown to this Bank by the Sastry Tribunal as well as by the Labour Appellate Tribunal. In this case four banks have amalgamated. Three of them would have been included in B category. What was suggested by the Sastry Award was that the amalgamated bank be treated as a B class bank, till 31st December 1954. The Appellate Tribunal extended the period by one year. Government have excluded the bank even from being treated as a B class bank. It is surprising that after amalgamation, the bank should have been put in class A category. There are

about 3500 to 4000 employees and Government have no reason whatsoever for removing the bank from the purview of this award.

When we come to the question of classification of the scales of pay, we find that the Sen Tribunal had classified the banks into three classes and mapped out the country into three areas. There were thus nine categories in the industry. The Sastry Tribunal divided the banks into four groups and mapped out the country into three areas. There were then twelve categories. Government have today divided the banks into four classes and divided the map of the country into four areas creating sixteen categories. We have a veritable jungle of various scales of wages and various scales of salaries as far as bank employees are concerned. I would like to point out that three-fourths of them are to be found in areas 1 and 2. I would like to confine my observations to some of these bigger areas. I believe that the award has been modified on the advice of the Reserve Bank. May I point out that the rawest recruit in the Reserve Bank is given Rs. 142-8-0 per month? What the Reserve Bank is prepared to do for its employees, it is not prepared to concede to the employees of other banks. Government have suggested to us to make a comparison of the salaries that are paid to the government servants with the scales of pay that have been recommended for the bank employees. May, I, in this connection, point out that the Labour Appellate Tribunal have categorically declared that it is their view that the clerk in A class bank in class I area should receive as his starting total emoluments something between what the Central Government gives to its clerks and the wages of the higher commercial firms. I have before me a list of the salaries that are paid by the higher commercial firms. What do we find? After twenty-five years of work an employee in the Tatas gets Rs. 1,17,840, an employee of the ACC gets Rs. 1,08,860, an employee in the New India Assurance Company would get Rs. 1,07,136, while a bank employee would get Rs. 77,064. Of all the ten concerns that I have before me, the banks come the last. Government seem to be very solicitous about banks but what do the bankers think about Government? What have they to say about this—about this comparison that the Government have tried to make between government servants and the bank employees? This is what my friend, the General Manager of the Reserve Bank of India, has to say:

> "It may be emphasised the Central Pay Commission was dealing with public services; not with busy commercial institutions and undertakings. The competitive elements involved speed in carrying out a trading transaction. Otherwise credit suffers as customers of the bank become unsatisfied. In Government offices it is not of vital concern whether the person whom the Government servant serves is satisfied or dissatisfied with the speed with which a particular Government transaction is transacted. This Bank ventures to say, if it was, most, Governments would fall immediately."

The nature of the work in a bank is basically and fundamentally different from the nature of the work in Government offices. In spite of this fact Government have thought it fit to institute a comparison between the salaries and emoluments given for the government servants and the salaries and emoluments suggested for the bank employees. As a result of this modification, in the State of Bihar, out of about 4,000 bank employees, about 3800 stand to lose; only 200 stand to gain. In my bank—the bank with which I am connected in the trade union movement, the Bank of India—95 per cent. of the bank employees will suffer severe cuts in their basic salary as well as in their total emoluments. As my hon. friend already pointed, 51 top officials of the five major banks in India, between them, receive annually about Rs. 22,50,000. The relationship

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or ratio of the income of the General Manager of the Bank of India to the income of a clerk in the bank is 100: 1. Do we want such ratios to exist in our country? I do not know if the Government have pondered over this question. They have told us that so many branches are likely to be closed; they are so solicitous. Between 1948 and 1951, 1,013 branches were closed. Government have pointed out that about 680 branches would very adversely be affected if the award is implemented as it stood.

As far as dearness allowance is concerned, may I point out that the allowance that was recommended by the Labour Appellate Tribunal for a D class.....

The Minister of Finance (Shri C. D. Deshmukh): I am sorry to interrupt out how do hon. Members think that at no time did any bank say that they would not close their branches if this award were to be implemented?

Shri Asoka Mehta: I have already laid before you what is given in the order of the Appellate Tribunal.....

Shri C. D. Deshmukh: The banks would know the effect only after the award has been given. How can they say before that?

Shri Asoka Mehta: I have before me all the documents and I can only make out my case on the basis of those. Government will no doubt have an opportunity.

May I point out that the Government by their order have given less dearness allowance to the employees of all the banks than what the Labour Appellate Tribunal has recommended for D class—the smallest class—bank. It is significant to note that this is applicable to all the banks, even the A class banks. I hope the hon. Finance Minister will note this point: the banks themselves had offered to pay a dearness allowance of 35 per cent. against the 33 and one-third per cent. granted by the Government in their order. A minimum dearness allowance of Rs. 45 per month was offered by the banks themselves as against the earlier dearness allowance of Rs. 35 ordered by the Government in the order that has been issued. May I also point that a similar situation occurred in the past? The banks voluntarily gave higher dearness allowance than what the Divatia award had granted. Let it not be said once again that what the employers are prepared to give but the Government are trying to snatch it away. When the Sen Award was given, a portion of the dearness allowance was incorporated in the basic salary but because the Gadgil Committee report was not before the Sastry Tribunal, no portion of the dearness allowance could be similarly incorporated. I am surprised to find that Government has taken no notice whatsoever of the Gadgil Committee report. Fortunately we have before us Mr. Gadgil himself. It is rather interesting to note that two-thirds of the bank clerks in the Bank of Baroda and in the Central Bank of India were found to be unmarried and about twenty per cent. of the clerks have put in eight years of service. Why is it that the bank clerks are not able to marry? Unless there is some relationship between celibacy and bank employment, the only conclusion that one could arrive at is that the bank employees are so badly paid that they are not in a position to marry.....

Shri Gadgil (Poona—Central): It is due to lack of accommodation in Bombay.

Shri Asoka Mehta: The peons who were getting Rs. 60 as basic salary will get only Rs. 40. In my Bank—the Bank of India—a peon will lose Rs. 100 a year apart from other losses, because he will lose in bonus as his basic salary has been reduced; he will loose in provident fund and ultimately in gratuity. As against a total emolument of Rs. 80 rising to Rs. 115, a person employed in A class bank—Class I—under these Government orders, would

get Rs. 75 as starting salary and will hope to receive Rs. 107 under the adjustments that have been made. It is rather surprising. Under the Sen award a point-to-point adjustment was made. An employee would get so many increments according to the number of years of service that he had put in and he would be adjusted in the new scales of pay and should get the full benefit of his service. Under the Sastry Award, he was entitled to receive only four increments for his past service but he could get or he was to receive two more increments because of the additional service he has put in after the issue was referred to the Tribunal. And it was suggested by the Sastry Tribunal that under no circumstances a bank employee should receive more today than what he would have received in case the adjustment was made on the basis of point-to-point adjustment. The Labour Appellate Tribunal removed that condition and said that he should be entitled to receive additional increments if he is entitled to them for the service put in the last three years. That qualifying clause, that one little concession given by the Labour Appellate Tribunal has been removed by Government. And while the Sastry Award has said that what an employee receives in 1953 should not be higher than what he would get by point to point adjustment, the Government have by their order said—if I have understood the order correctly—that no employee should receive by the end of 1954 anything more than what he would get by the point to point adjustment. That means under the Sastry Award he would have been entitled to get an additional increment for this year, and even that would disappear in case his point to point adjustment was less than what he would be able to get today.

During the war years a number of banks were started and a number of competent men were taken from the older banks. They were given higher promotions because of their experience and efficiency. It is the senior men who are being discriminated against today. In different banks a large number of these men, on whom the efficiency of our banks in class I and II depends, these men are going to lose between fifty and hundred rupees a month. I would like you to consider the implications of such serious cuts as far as these bank employees are concerned. What will be the effect on the credit institutions? Will the credit institutions function properly if the senior employees there in the clerical grade are frustrated, dissatisfied and are full of anger and anguish?

It is surprising to find that while solicitude is being shown for banks at the lower level, no attempt has been made to improve the award. After all, for a bank to be qualified to be put into A Class, working funds of only Rs. 25 crores are needed. The Imperial Bank has as much as Rs. 250 crores. Why should not higher scales be prescribed for the Imperial Bank and Exchange Banks? The Rural Banking Enquiry Committee said that different Branches must be able to pay their way if they are to be maintained. Surely, the big offices in Bombay, Calcutta and Madras and other places are paying much more than their way. If every branch has to pay its way and if the scales of salaries and dearness allowance are to be fixed on the local profits in the limited area, why should not higher scales be given to people working in the metropolitan areas, particularly banks which are tremendously strong? Why should a modification of the award be to the disadvantage of the employees? Why should there be no modification of the award to the advantage of the employee, may be a section, a small section of the employees.

Then again, if the award was to be modified, I do not know why Hyderabad and Secunderabad have been excluded from the first area.

May I conclude by saying that from the information that we have been receiving from the various organisations of bank employees the tide of their anger, anguish and frustration is rising outside? I hope that we shall

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not have to modify our orders and decisions because the bank employees ultimately resort to direct action, as we had to do more than once in the past. I hope and trust that we shall carefully take into consideration the facts as they have been brought to our attention and that modifications will be made here and now, so that we avert a serious situation and so that we may not let our workers and our trade unions feel that they cannot hope to get justice out of the Government and that they have to resort to direct action.

Shri Gadgil: I propose to deal with this question on the merits of the case, as is the policy of the Government of India with respect to its foreign affairs. What I say today should not be construed as my attitude towards the labour problems as such. We have to consider the modifications made by the Government in the light of certain facts which constitute the background. From 1946 to 1953, 745 banks have closed down. That figure includes the number that closed down in 1950 in West Bengal. From 1948 to 1953, in the rural areas, about 446 branches have closed down. We have to take into consideration the fact that the maintenance of credit in the country is pre-eminently, I should say, exclusively, the responsibility of the Government of the day. Since this responsibility has to be discharged properly, provision was made in the 1950 Act that in certain contingencies, when the Government came to the conclusion that public interests demanded any modification or rejection of any particular award made by any tribunal or even the appellate tribunal, Government could invoke that power and do what it thought best in the circumstances.

It was argued that faith in the judiciary is affected. May I recall the incident in 1951 when the Sen award was declared null and void by the Supreme Court? If Government had not the interests of the workers at their heart, they could have simply kept quiet and let things to take their own course. Instead of that, Government came with a piece of legislation in 1951 and stated that the position that was prevalent in March, 1951, should be stabilised. Again, the whole question was referred to what has come to be known as the Sastry Tribunal. There is an instance in which the Government has interfered when the award was in favour of the employers and interfered for the benefit of the workers. Therefore, this power is there and we have to see whether it has been properly and justly exercised.

When we take into consideration the background as I have stated a few minutes ago, and also the responsibility of the Government with respect to the implementation of the Five-Year Plan, it is, I think, the duty of the Government to see that the credit in the country, and the facilities of banking and a proper mechanism whereby the Government can mobilise the resources of the country for the implementation of the Plan are perfect. When we know that so many branches in the rural areas have closed down, when there is a specific recommendation of the Rural Banking Enquiry Committee to a certain effect, I think that what the Government did in this matter was perfectly justified. If I had the slightest suspicion that the attitude of the Government was one of prestige, I would be the last man to support the decision. (*An hon. Member*: Question). What I feel and what I know, as a matter of fact, is that the Government feel justified in the circumstances of the case that this is the best decision. I am certain that these things can be reviewed at any time, if the economic circumstances change, if there is a fresh discovery of new facts or if the public interests demand that in that context of circumstances that may be available a few months hence, something else should be done.

Shri Venkataraman (Tanjore): Under what section of the Industrial Disputes Act?

Shri Gadgil: No section is necessary. It is the inherent power of the Government to look after the proper maintenance of public interests. It makes no difference.....

Shri S. S. More: Even for an inherent power, there must be some section or article in the Constitution.

Shri Gadgil: Even Shri S. S. More must be legalistic occasionally but the point is that already before the Government is the report of the Shroff Committee. In that report a recommendation has been made that the entire structure of wages and salaries should be brought on a rational basis and I think this is a matter to which Government should give more attention, and if, as is suggested by my old friend Mr. Asoka Mehta, there have been seven awards and twelve adjudications, that only shows how very complex and difficult is the question of rationalising the wages and salaries structure in this particular industry. All the same, it is a greater reason for the Government to come to some conclusion whereby an enquiry into the whole question can be ordered. That I should like to place as a constructive suggestion before the House and before the Government.

Now, taking the whole thing on merit, my esteemed friend, Mr. Asoka Mehta referred to certain percentages of unmarried people. I have got more details about it. In the Central Bank, in the age group of 24, out of 39 persons, 38 were unmarried; in the age group of 25, out of 53 persons, 40 were unmarried; in the age group of 26, out of 38 persons, 24 persons were unmarried. In the Bank of Baroda, in the age group of 24, out of 17 clerks 16 were unmarried; in the age group of 25, out of 18 clerks, 14 were unmarried; and in the age group of 26, out of 11 persons, 8 remained unmarried.

Shri Syamnandan Sahaya (Muzaffarpur—Central): Have you got any figures about widowers?

Shri Gadgil: I think it much too serious an argument. These figures are relevant when we consider the two economic circumstances or the two approaches on which the entire basic pay has to be based. The Labour Tribunal has taken into consideration and stated that in the beginning the initial salary should be based on 2·25 consumption units, and the co-efficient should be 1·80. Now this means that at the beginning of the career, *i.e.*, at the age of 24, the man has a wife, or the award people take into consideration a non-existent or a prospective wife, and they fix up the minimum of the subsistence wage at the consumption units of 2·25, although every award, all the three or four awards are agreed....

Shri Asoka Mehta: May I submit that the Labour Appellate Tribunal has gone against that?

Shri Gadgil: I am dealing with everything. I am not concealing any facts.

The point is that at the initial stage this is what is taken into consideration. Now, everybody is agreed that at the eighth year there should be three consumption units to be taken into consideration. Now, there is no logic in it, but all that is speculative—a fact, admitted by the Labour Appellate Tribunal itself. Then, in order to find out what will be the proportion between the cost of living of a workman and the middle class man, the co-efficient fixed is 1·80, the figure that was arrived at by Mr. Rajadhyaksha in one of his awards. The Sastry Tribunal said that owing to the fact that the wages of workmen have increased in the course of the last so many years, the co-efficient should be not 1·80 but 1·66. Therefore, these two figures are there which are of vital importance from the point of view of the fact whether clerks are married at 24, 25, 26 and so on and so forth. The point really is that the Labour Appellate Tribunal has stated that they accept the approach of the Rajadhyaksha Committee because they think at the initial stage they must take 2·25 units into consideration, as also the co-efficient of 1·80, but the

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Rajadhyaksha Committee itself had said:

> "The Committee made it clear that an absolute decision in such matters was not possible, and they repeated the caution that the estimates were only for the limited purposes of the inquiry before them, and were not meant to lay down a general living wage for all purposes. In the absence of any other investigation so carefully conducted, we think we could safely take this figure."

After that, seven years have passed, and things have changed. The wages of the labourers have increased. Therefore, the co-efficient was very justifiably put at 1·66 by the Sastry Tribunal. Whatever be the initial salary you give, the point to be considered is what its effect is. Here, we have figures supplied to us by Government, about the total emoluments. You will find that they compare very well with the emoluments of government servants. Somebody said that the Sen Award has not affected the banks. But it is not a question of the Sen Award affecting the banks or otherwise. The question is what would be the result of the Labour Appellate Tribunal's Award. If you see the statement supplied by Government, showing the average of the total emoluments payable to the clerical staff, per employee, per annum, you will find that the figures are as follows:—

Central Government Posts and Telegraphs clerical staff	Rs. 2,316
'A' class banks:	
Pre-Sen Award period	Rs. 2,517
Sen Award as frozen	Rs. 2,868
Labour Appellate Tribunal's Award	Rs. 3,132
Labour Appellate Tribunal's Award (modified)	Rs. 2,844

So, the Labour Appellate Tribunal's Award as modified gives them something equal to the Sastry Award, and something that is more than what the Government are giving to their employees. In some cases, the Sastry Award gives them even less than what Government are giving. The points that should be taken into consideration here are the capacity of the nation as such, what is available in the country to similar occupations, and also the capacity of the industry itself. The Fair Wages Committee laid down, as a matter of principle, that subsistence or minimum wage must be there, whatever be the capacity of a particular concern. And from that, there should be a progressive realisation, so to say, of the fair wage, depending upon the capacity of the concern to pay. How is that to be done? The solution that is being used at present is the grant of bonus. If a particular concern makes profit, then, surely, the labourers are entitled to it. I agree that fair wages must precede profit. But if there is no profit, then the only obligation on the industry concerned is to pay what is known as the minimum wage.

Now, let us see what the position will be, if the award of the Labour Appellate Tribunal had been implemented as such. I am told that so far as the C class banks are concerned, the increase would have been anything from forty to seventy per cent., and one of the banks, I am told, will have an increase of seventy per cent., namely, the Travancore Forward Bank. I have not got with me the figures of all the banks, in regard to the increase that will result on account of this. But I have got the figures of a certain bank. In its application before the Governor of the Reserve Bank, it has stated that in addition of Rs. 2,00,640 would have to be made. This Bank has not given dividends for the last five years. As a matter of fact, out of 545 banks, 191 banks have not declared dividends in the course of the last five years, and I think many more will be added to this. If this particular bank is asked to implement the original recommendations of the Labour Appellate Tribunal as such, not only will it not

be possible for that bank to fulfil that, but this bank will have to close down. I am told that in the representation made before the Governor of the Reserve Bank by twenty-seven C class banks, it is stated that twenty-five banks will close down. Out of these twenty-seven C class banks, half of them have not declared dividends in the course of the last five years, and out of the remaining, half of them have declared a dividend of less than 6 per cent. and four or five have declared a dividend of a little more than 6 per cent.

I have also figures in respect of another bank, where the net profit came to Rs. 12 lakhs in a particular year. If this award is implemented, Rs. 10 lakhs will be the additional expenditure plus Rs. 2 lakhs as a matter of adjustment. The result will be that the net profit will be completely wiped out.

So in the circumstances in which we find the banking industry, till it is nationalised, as long as we are pleased to allow private enterprise to function in this sphere, the only result will be that they will close down the banks in those areas which we call rural areas, and this will be detrimental from the point of view of the implementation of the Five Year Plan. I therefore humbly suggest that it is not a question of the Sen Award doing the work; the Sen Award is not the rod of comparison. The rod of comparison or the measure If comparison is, what will be the additional expenses if we completely implement the Labour Appellate tribunal's Award. If that is done, the bigger banks may not suffer. certain employees of one of the biggest banks saw me yesterday. They complained that their manager was getting Rs. 7000 free of income-tax, a house, this that and the other. I said this was a case in which the Government should be approached to scale down the salary but that this was not a case to say that the Labour Appellate Tribunal's recommendations should be accepted.

The Shroff Committee has recommended rationalisation of the entire wage and salaries scale. The terms of reference should be so wide that in a society in which we want no class distinction at all, if possible, or less class distinction, this variation between the salary of the lowest paid man and the highest paid man should be as little as possible. Therefore, my submission is this.....

Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad (Purnea *cum* Santal Parganas): Why not scale down the salary of the manager first and then do the other thing?

Shri Gadgil: I hope he understands the implications of what I say. The point is that this is not a question in which we can straightway say that this is correct or this is incorrect, because seven times the question has been gone into with no satisfaction that could be said to be universal. Therefore, in view of this fact, and also the fact that the prices are showing a trend of going down, will it be fair to accept the recommendations *in toto*? So I submit that the decision taken by the Government is wise in the circumstances of the case; they cannot afford to take risks with the credit instrument which is so sensitive. I say Banking is a strategic industry, much more important than the industry of manufacturing arms in this country. Therefore, they should fully realise it. At the same time, I humbly suggest that they should take immediate decision over the recommendations of the Shroff Committee so that this whole question of the wage and salaries structure will be fully gone into and the feeling of frustration—the higher paid clerks may not be frustrated, but whatever it is, I assume that there is frustration—should go.

Shri C. D. Deshmukh: We must be clear, first of all, what exactly it is that we are debating. Is it the question of the wisdom of modifying an award given by a Tribunal? Or is it the details of each pay scale and each concession which is in issue? Or is it the case of each bank or class of banks likely to be affected by the

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award? Now, it seems to me that so far as the first issue is concerned, it has already been debated by the House when powers to modify an award were embodied in the legislation. I do not think that there is anything new to be said on the subject. Speakers were not wanting who drew attention to the unwisdom of embodying such a clause in the law at the time, speakers even on the side of Government, and a reply was given which was finally accepted.

Now, in regard to the other issues, the trouble is that by the time the Labour Appellate Tribunal's award was given, no body had the faintest conception of how in actual working it would affect the operations of each individual unit out of those 400 and odd, whose fortunes were decided by the Tribunal. Now, that must be in the nature of things. It is not as if any tribunal announces a draft award first so that public opinion could be ascertained in regard to its possible effect on employers, employees and the other interests concerned. Every Tribunal has the painful duty of coming to a conclusion, and after it has done so, it becomes *functus officio* so that it is no longer within its power to find out how it is going to affect, if at all, any interests other than the employers and the employees. And, it is for that reason that the power to modify the award has been vested in Government.

The Industrial Disputes Appellate Tribunal Act clearly, therefore, empowers the appropriate Government on public grounds to modify or reject the decision of the Appellate Tribunal; and the power to so modify implies the duty to examine the decisions from this point of view and to exercise the power, if, in the opinion of Government, prejudice is likely to be caused to the public interest.

The first point I would submit to the House is that there is no other authority which can possibly discharge this function and if this function could be assigned to any one else, that authority would be Government itself. It is a part and parcel of the fabric of Government and therefore that duty is one from which no Government can be absolved.

Reference was made in previous speeches to social justice being the predominant motive which influenced the insertion of this particular provision in the Act. By and large, I think, that is correct; and, by and large, it is the interests of social justice which Government sincerely believes have been served or are likely to be served by the modification of the award that has been made by Government (*Interruption*). I cannot catch the interruptions.

An Hon. Member: Bank lords.

Shri C. D. Deshmukh: I was just coming to bank lords and bank tycoons. These are gibes which any Member of Parliament can fling at anyone else and hon. Members are at perfect liberty to imagine that the action of the members of Government is always influenced by the big capitalists or by tycoons or bank lords or other vested interests (*Interruption*). I can say in retort that hon. Members who speak so are also bound to be influenced by certain other vested interests, and that they cannot be regarding themselves as the guardians of public interests at large. And, that is the point that I wish to develop now.

Let us see who is going to be affected by this award. There are the employers, that is to say, the shareholders. Then there are the employees and, in the case of an industry like banking, apart from the public which is served by the banks, there is one additional interest, the depositors. So far as the Banking Companies Act is concerned, so far as the Reserve Bank is concerned, it is that interest which is sought to be guarded. Not so much the public interest, although in considering whether any modification of an award is called for, Government has to take

into account not only that interest, that is to say, the depositors' interest but also—or in the case of insurance law, the policyholders' interest—the interests of the community at large.

I submit, Sir, that it is on consideration of these two interests that a modification has been made. Now, it needs no argument to prove that the community at large is slightly more important from the point of view of public grounds than even bank employees—valuable members as they are of the community—we are not denying that. But, I say that there is the community at large which is a much more important interest. In addition, as I said, there is the interest of the depositors. Now, here are the numbers: I think about 65,000 employees are affected by this award. We have discovered that there is a ratio of one to ten in the number of employees and the number of shareholders. In other words, if there are 65,000 employees, there are 6·5 lakhs of shareholders. We have also discovered that the same ratio obtains as between shareholders and depositors, and, therefore, there are 6½ million depositors. It is, therefore, the interests of 6½ million depositors that we had in mind in addition to the interests of the community, and it was with very great reluctance that Government entered upon the unpleasant duty of trying to modify the award. Words like 'tampering' and so on are used which, I think, are disrespectful to the House itself because the House has given the power to modify or, if necessary, to reject the award on public grounds. If the charge were to be levelled against every Government which does so, that it has tampered with the award, then, I say, it is really disrespectful to the decision consciously taken by the House.

Shri S. S. More: Can there be any abuse of power?

Shri C. D. Deshmukh: There can be abuse of power as much as there can be abuse of Government. I am trying to prove that there has been no abuse of power here, and the hon. Member will realise that when I have finished my speech.

Apart from the interests of contending parties, therefore, as I said, there are these other interests. Now, some hon. Members have already referred, I think, to previous modifications. That is a point of no great importance because they have been done by State Governments. I think it was the Travancore-Cochin Government which modified the award in the interest of workers. Then there was the Assam Government which has modified the award recently, I think, in a sense, in the interest of the workers because they were afraid that if the modification was not made then the tea gardens might be prejudicially affected and therewith the employment in these gardens. Then, I think, there was a modification in the United Provinces which, I believe, was against the workers because there was some question of personal wage not being capable of being sustained by the industry concerned. But, as I said, these matters are of no great importance. Even if there was no precedent, I should say that the present is a kind of case where every Government would have had to consider very seriously—no matter what the political complication is—what the likely effects of the award were going to be. I believe this enquiry was unique in many respects. As the hon. Member opposite pointed out, in the old days, these disputes were decided within the sphere of the States. Each State appointed a tribunal. Then, when I happened to be Governor of the Reserve Bank of India, I found that, that led to a tangle of decisions much to the discomfort of employers and employees of companies with branches in more than one State, and it was for that reason that the matter was taken out of the purview of State Governments and the power was vested in the Central Government. Therefore, it is for the Central Government now to consider whether any award can be given which could safely be accepted for the industry as a whole, an

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industry where the failure of even a few institutions might affect the credit structure. Now, I give this out as my personal view that, in future one would have to consider very carefully whether awards of this nature could at all be encouraged; that is to say, matters could be referred in their generality to tribunals of this kind where banking is concerned.

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There was some reference to the possibility of modifying the award before the expiry of the minimum period for which it will be in force; that is one year. Strictly speaking, no modification can be made except by reference to a fresh tribunal. I am not relying on any inherent powers here, but I would point out that these powers can be vested by Parliament itself in Government. If it is found desirable that something should be done, it will be possible for this very House to insert such a provision in this law, but I am only drawing attention to the provision which already exists, and that is contained in clause 4 of subsection 19 which, with your permission, I will read out:

> "Where the appropriate Government, whether of its own motion or on the application of any party bound by the award, considers that since the award was made, there has been a material change in the circumstances on which it was based, the appropriate Government may refer the award or a part of it to a tribunal for decision whether the period of operation should not, by reason of such change, be shortened and the decision of the tribunal on such reference shall, subject to the provision for appeal, be final."

Therefore, that course is always available, and I believe it was that kind of thing that was in the mind of the Prime Minister when he gave that assurance.

I must, at this stage, also refer to the other suggestion made by the hon. Member, Shri Gadgil, that Government should accelerate the appointment of an Enquiry Commission or a Court of Enquiry arising out of the recommendations of the Shroff Committee. I have no doubt that after those recommendations have been considered, it will be necessary to appoint some kind of an enquiry committee for going through the whole structure of banking, including its wage structure and if there are other matters that come to notice and if at that time we find that the circumstances are different than what they are today, then there should be no legal bar to any desirable modification in the terms of the award.

I will come to the merits of the award. I have dealt with the first part of the issue. So far as the modifications in respect of exemption in the rural sector is concerned, we followed the alternative procedure of presenting our point of view from public grounds to the Tribunal. The hon. Member opposite has complained that we took it up when the banks themselves did not take it up. That only illustrates the difference in the construction of 'public grounds' that exists in the minds of employers and employees and also in the mind of Government. There is no reason why if banks make reasonable profits they should wish to branch out into rural areas, but the matter was of very great importance so far as Government was concerned, especially when we are trying to develop our economy under the First Five Year Plan to be followed by successive Plans. It is true—although the hon. Member said that it is not a fact—that this was rejected on technical grounds. "Technical grounds means that we can only urge something which was urged by some parties, and we found that it was urged only to a very limited extent by one out of about 130 banks and that bank was not the biggest in the country. Therefore, it was not for us to take up that particular case, that is to say, the desirability of extending the branches of one particular bank. That was, as we understood, the only limited

point that we could have urged and although there might be *obiter dicta* and observations, questions asked and questions answered, they were not necessarily binding as a sort of judicial decision or as a confirmed policy of the Government. Therefore, I need not deal with the question whether we wish that branch-banking should spread in the country with wages at less than subsistence level. People today are subsisting at all kinds of levels. We have just made a beginning with minimum wages, and so on for some industries, and they are not the most important industries in the country. They were somewhat unorganised. They are not regular factory industries, but so far as the general organised industries are concerned, we have yet, to my knowledge, made no attempt to decide what is a minimum wage or a fair wage, what is a subsistence wage, and so on and so forth. There are, and there must be hundreds of thousands of teachers who are living on a salary which is probably half of what the bank clerk is getting or is likely to get in class IV areas or in towns where branches may be started, for populations of less than 30,000. As I said, we could not know, apart from this one point, which was in the Sastry Award, itself, what the other items of the Labour Appellate Award would be. There could be no question of our raising the other points, similarly before the tribunal, prior to its giving their award, even if it is assumed that Government should leave taking up the view on general economic policy to another authority. On that point, I have already made some observations. I do not believe that this is the right way. I do not accept the position that, as far as possible, Government should try to appear in advance before an award is given, because that would amount to nullifying this particular provision to which we, as Government, must attach very great deal of importance, at the same time, denying any desire to use it with any sense of irresponsibility.

Now, there is another point I wish to make and that is, there is a distinction between industrial tribunals and other judicial courts or tribunals. Much has been said about the sanctity of judicial awards and the highest court in the land, and all that. The procedure is similar to that of law courts. The difference is that they have no substantive law to administer. There is no law. If Parliament had given them a law, comprising principles on which they should act, then it would be very easy. I should then say that an occasion should seldom arise for Government to interfere. That would be so, because Government and the Parliament would have given their thought to defining what these principles should be. That attempt has not so far been made with the result that all kinds of principles are being evolved out of a case law, not based on any general law of the land. There is no clear-cut justiciable issue on which they can adjudicate on questions like minimum wage, subsistence wage, fair wage, whether bonus is part of the wage, whether it is part of pay, whether it should be given out of net profits, etc. It is a complete tangle of individual decisions.

I pose a personal view: that a time must come when Parliament must devote its attention to defining the principles on which Tribunals should act if this system is to be continued. Apart from case law that the tribunals have themselves been evolving, they generally go by the notion of a living wage, which, of course, in the absense of any principle, and so on, is bound to be subjective. Now a view might be held in retrospect that such an All-India Tribunal, in respect of an industry with over 4,000 banking officers all over the country and with more than 400 units to deal with, ranging from extremely large ones, with a working fund of a hundred or a few hundreds of crores of rupees, to the extremely small ones, with a deposit of a few lakhs of rupees or less, was not altogether well-advised. In spite of the attempt to classify the banks into four classes in different

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localities—into three or four areas—I still think that any attempt to force this into a straight-jacket would not be wise, but we have to deal with the situation as we find it. In spite of what the Appellate Tribunal has said—namely, that they have carefully considered the practical effect on the establishment costs, of their award, there is no evidence to show that they had considered the effect of their Award on the establishment cost of any typical units by way of sample. They had no occasion to go into individual cases, for the simple reason that this could be done only after they have given the award. After they give the award, they have no more authority in that case. So, these figures had to be separately and specially collected from the banks and verified by the Reserve Bank during the extended period made available by the ordinance to Government. The point I wish to make is that even if the scales are considered appropriate—I mean the Labour Tribunal rates—to some of the categories, individual banks are bound to suffer disastrously if we merely go on the averages. From the information collected in respect of 12 banks it appeared to us that 241 of their offices involving 2,549 employees would be closed down if the award was implemented as it stood. Now that information must be taken by the House in the absence of any other, that is to say, no report of a tribunal could possibly contain this information.

Shri Sadhan Gupta (Calcutta—South-East): May we know who gave that information?

Shri C. D. Deshmukh: The banks.

I should say that as between the banks and the employees, we must...

Shri T. K. Chaudhuri (Berhampore): May I ask one question? Was any enquiry made from the banks as to why they did not close down after the implementation of the Sen Award and the freezing of the wages on the basis of the Sen Award?

Shri C. D. Deshmukh: The difficulties of discharging employees while a Tribunal was going on—that is the legal reason. The other reason is that it suited them to pay according to Sen Award, while it does not suit them to pay the higher emoluments.

What I mean is that the hon. Member is trying to find out why they did not close after the Sen Award or the Sastry Award. I say that was something they could bear. But that does not lead to the inference that they would not be forced to close some of the branches if the Labour Appellate Tribunals Award were to be accepted *in toto*. The point I am making is that the Labour Appellate Tribunal Award is better from the point of view of the employees than the Sen Award.

Shri T. K. Chaudhuri: The Labour Appellate Tribunal's emoluments are lower than the Sen emoluments.

Shri C. D. Deshmukh: That is not correct: in some cases they are, in very few cases where they have based their dearness allowance on cost of living indices of obscure places like Dehri on Sone and some other places. Otherwise the Labour Appellate Tribunal's Award is more generous to the employees than the Sen Award taken as a whole. Later on I shall give instances. There was one bank where before the Sen Award, their total expenditure on establishment would have been Rs. 1 crore 12 lakhs. With the Sen Award it became about Rs. 1 crore 31 lakhs: with the Sastry Award it would have been Rs. 1 crore 30 lakhs; then with the Labour Appellate Tribunal it would have been Rs. 1·48 crores; and with the award now as modified, that is to say, protecting the existing pay scales which was not in the Sastry Award it will be Rs. 1·40 crores. Therefore, there will be an increase of Rs. 28 lakhs, so far as one particular bank is concerned. I do not

wish to draw inferences from one bank as hon. Members have tried to—one hon. Member quoted his own bank the United Bank; another hon. Member cited the case of his bank, the Bank of India.

Shri H. N. Mukerjee: Are you prepared to implement the Sen Award in that case?

Shri C. D. Deshmukh: I am coming to that point. We have really protected all the increases that have been given by the Sen Award for one year, and since the award is to be in force for one year nobody can possibly suffer a decrease in emoluments. That is the full and complete answer. It is a very curious state of affairs. It has taken us about six years to arrive at a decision, because this dispute started in the "State" fields as an hon. Member pointed out. The award could only be enforced for one year, unless it is extended. But it cannot be extended, as I have said, if circumstances are found to have changed. We might take another decision. Therefore, we may assume that this award will remain in force for one year and if it does so, normally, then no one will suffer a decrease in emoluments. On the other hand, some people are bound to gain. They will gain to the extent to which the banks have calculated that their charges will increase as a result of the operation of the modified award.

An argument has been advanced that we should have allowed the Labour Appellate Tribunal's award—although none of the speakers have spoken about this, it is bound to come up from some other Member that once...

Shri N. C. Chatterjee (Hooghly): May I have one point clarified? Is it correct that no reduction would be effected unless the award is extended beyond one year?

Shri C. D. Deshmukh: Yes. In addition, people will get the benefit of the Sastry Award by and large, although not to the same extent as that of the award of the Labour Appellate Tribunal. The point at issue is whether the additional burden can be borne by all banks. I might as well say that this is the essence of the matter. We did consider—if I might let out a little secret of our deliberations—whether we could make distinctions between separate banks or separate areas or some banks in A class. We know that some of them may be able to sustain an award of this kind. It must be remembered that such distinction would have been in contradiction to the Sen as well as the subsequent Awards all of which avoided a clarification on the basis of working funds. Therefore, we did consider whether we should make such exceptions but we generally took the view that we should interfere with the award as little as possible and as circumstances compel us. Therefore, we thought that we must take the categories as they stand and should not take the risk of some weak units, even in A class, being affected; or it may be even B class units. There was indeed one example of a unit in B class which ought to have been classed with A; it was a very prosperous one. All the same we did not wish to interfere with that decision. This was according to us the minimum interference with the award. I am free to confess that, if I was to be asked: are there not any banks which could afford to pay their employees according to the Labour Appellate Tribunal Award? I should say: yes; there are banks which I am sure will find it possible to pay but I am equally sure that there are other banks in the same class—not to speak of other classes—which would not have been able to pay.

There is one more point which I want to make. It is all very well for us to describe what is likely to happen and what is not likely to happen. Hon. Members are perfectly entitled to have their view that no banks are going to be affected, that bank failures are not a thing unknown and if 600 banks have failed already, why not allow 200 more to fail? I say that it may not create difficulties for the hon.

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Members unless they are in the labour movement when they are bound to know that many employees will have lost their jobs...

Shri S. S. More: Nobody suggested that way...

Shri C. D. Deshmukh: It was implied...

Shri Sadhan Gupta: No, it was suggested that bank failures were due to the directors' successes...

Shri C. D. Deshmukh: I am sorry it disturbs the thread of my arguments. What was suggested was that many bank failures in the past were due to directors' mis-directions. I am aware of that, having been the Governor of the Reserve Bank for six years; I am also aware that in future you may have similar instances, although—I hope—on a decreasing scale because of the Banking Companies Act and the very close inspection which is maintained by the Reserve Bank. Nevertheless, I say that you should avoid taking any conscious step yourself which will add to these difficulties. Why should you allow another 200 banks to close because 600 had been closed? I do not understand this argument....

Shri S. S. More: Nobody advanced that argument.

Shri C. D. Deshmukh: It was advanced....

Shri H. N. Mukerjee: You try to catch the thief; everything would be better. You try and find out who has been responsible.

Shri C. D. Deshmukh: In this particular case, my view is that we should be responsible for having sent them to be slaughtered, having made up your mind that this cannot be borne by these institutions, mostly B and C class banks.

The point I was developing was that the responsibility for dealing with them will not rest with hon. Members; it will rest with us only and I can tell that it is a very serious responsibility. I would tell the Hon. Member opposite in particular that there are about Rs. 25 crores in jeopardy today in Bengal on account of the failure of many banks in Bengal spelling ruination on many middle-class families, a far larger class of interests than the bank employees in the United Bank.

Shri H. N. Mukerjee: You are fully prepared to be further blackmailed by these bankers who have fattened on our people's distress?

Shri C. D. Deshmukh: I do not see that depositors are fattening on anybody's interests. I am afraid the hon. Member does not get my point. I say that there is enough distress in the country on account of the failures of banks and that we should not add to it.

Shri S. S. More: Failure of Government too.

Mr. Chairman: No running commentry. This is not the way of argument. Let him proceed in his own way.

Shri C. D. Deshmukh: I say it might have been possible to give these scales as they stand to some of these banks. But we might have been charged with discrimination. As I say, we could not apply them uniformly even to certain classes or areas as such. It only illustrates the difficulty of the decision. This is all I would say in regard to the theory of the matter.

Let us consider next the capacity, which was our main criterion, the capacity of the banking system to deal with the situation that was created by the Labour Appellate Tribunal's award. The two most important items of expenditure of banks are establishment costs and interest on deposits. Interests on deposits are governed by market consideration. They are not chosen, so to speak, or selected by each bank individually. They are more or less helpless followers of a vogue. Apart from these, there are only petty expenses as stationery,

dead stock, rents on buildings, etc. The expenses of Indian scheduled banks, excluding exchange banks, went up from Rs. 9·50 crores in 1948 to Rs. 13·25 crores in 1953. I have a statement here which might be of interest to the House, and that is in regard to thirty banks, which are the important ones, for which we were able to collect information. We found that whereas the number of smaller employees had gone up by 10 per cent—which is the same percentage as for the number of officers—the total emoluments of the lower employees had gone up by 46 per cent—whereas the total emoluments of the officers had gone up by 24 per cent—between 1948 and 1953. On the other hand, the net profits have been steadily falling. That is to say, here you have the establishment charges total going up from Rs. 9·50 crores to Rs. 13·25 crores, an increase of Rs. 4 crores. But the net profits have been steadily falling. The net profits of Indian scheduled banks, exclusive of exchange banks, have fallen from Rs. 8·7 crores in 1948 to Rs. 6·51 crores in 1953. Then as regards deposits they have fallen from Rs. 875 crores in 1948 to Rs. 715 crores in 1952, although they have slightly recovered to Rs. 740 crores in 1953. And that is what I mean when I say that we find circumstances have changed. We do hope that with the increasing tempo of development expenditure, bank deposits also would show an increase. And then I think many of these problems will be solved as if by magic.

There was a point made about officers' salaries. That is the same point as salaries of government servants, salaries in other commercial establishments and so on, the general disparity between the lowest salary and the highest salary in the land. On the general issue one could give a lot of information that these wrong things keep happening even in countries managed under other political systems. But I concern myself with our own circumstances, and particularly those prevailing in the banking world. The majority of officers are in the lower income groups. Out of a total of 6,101 officers in thirty banks, which are the most important, for which detailed figures were collected by the Reserve Bank, as many as 5,681 were in the income group between Rs. 250 or less and Rs. 1,000 per mensem. That is to say, all but 500; that is 90 per cent. Of the total establishment expenses on officers amounting to Rs. 376 lakhs, in the case of these 30 banks, the expenses on the above 5,681 officers was Rs. 272 lakhs. The number of officers drawing emoluments in excess of Rs. 3,000 in these 30 banks was 40 and the total expenses on them amounted to Rs. 24 lakhs as against the total establishment expenses of Rs. 10·28 crores. Out of these 40 high paid executives, 34 were employed in A Class banks. Whatever one's view may be in regard to the salaries, paid to some of these managing directors and other high executives, I am quite certain that even if we were to induce them to work free, honorarily, and distribute all the pay that they would have got to the bank employees, it would not make very much of a difference.

Then, I come to the question of reserves. The Sastry Tribunal commented on the low reserves of banks as under:

> "A not uncommon feature of several Indian Banks is the low level of capital and reserve altogether insignificant for the type of business they are expected to undertake."

I may at this stage say that the Sastry Tribunal contained as one of their members an expert in banking, a participation which was lacking so far as the Labour Appellate Tribunal was concerned. Under the Banking Companies Act of 1949, 20 per cent of the net profits have compulsorily to be credited to the reserves until the reserves equal the paid-up capital of the company. On 31st December, 1953, only 22 out of the 73 Indian scheduled banks had reserves equal to the

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paid-up capital. This is a legal requirement. Taking the scheduled and non-scheduled banks together, only 90 out of 487 banks had reached that stage.

So far as secret reserves are concerned, out of the 33 banks for which figures were collected by the Reserve Bank of India,—to them they are not secret although they are secret to others—only 8 had any secret reserve at all; eight out of 33. The ratio of secret reserves in the case of three A Class banks worked out at 1·67 per cent of the loans advanced, that is to say, this was the provision for bad debts, you might say. In the case of five B, C, and D Class banks, it worked out to ·64 per cent. That is to say, the assumption is that out of every Rs. 100/- only ·64 of a rupee will not be collected and all the rest will be collected. It sounds almost Utopian investment. The percentages of 1·67 and ·64 are of the loans and investments made: that is to say, for the entire liability for bad debts, depreciation and various other things. This is the point about secret reserves. I think that the hon. Member's impression or the employees' impression that there are immense secret reserves, is wrong, as they will find to their painful surprise.

There is another instance. Following the considerable fall in Government securities after November, 1951, the Reserve Bank has had, year after year, to ask the various banks to show in their balance-sheets not the market value of the Government securities, but the average figure prior to the fall or the book value. If the banks were to show the market value of the Government securities, in many cases, their reserves would, I am afraid, be entirely wiped out.

Now, I come to the question of dividends. The Sastry Tribunal which went thoroughly into the matter observed as follows:

> "There are many banks in India, far too many, that do not earn enough to pay even moderate rates of dividend."

Thereafter, it goes on to quote a statement according to which, out of a total of 462 banks of all classes, in 1951, 191 declared no dividends,—191 out of 462—, 132 declared a dividend of 6 per cent and below, which are never regarded as excessive anywhere in the world. That accounts for 323 out of 462. And then, 90 declared dividends of six per cent to 14 per cent; sixteen paid dividends of 14 per cent and above, and figures for 33 banks are not available. And then the Tribunal goes on to say:

> "Even among the scheduled banks there is a considerable number that falls in the category of 'no dividend' for 1949, 1950 and 1951. We find a sharp decline in share values during the course of the last three or four years indicative of a decline in the financial strength, whatever may be the reason that has brought it about. The downward fluctuations in the share values of banks are a reflection upon the earning capacity of the banks concerned, and such banks do make up a considerable fraction of the total numerically, though not with reference to total resources or the total strength of workmen employed in the banking industry as a whole."

Now, Sir, even when banks pay what is apparently a high dividend, the present yields on the shares of these banks at current market rate at which 80 to 85 per cent of the shares stand transferred varies from 4 to 5 per cent. Therefore, I think one can conscientiously make the statement that in no bank is an effective rate of dividend paid higher than six per cent. Now, I shall not go into it further. I have got here the figures as to how shares have changed hands in order to reinforce my statement.

Now, as I said, we took a great deal of time for considering this matter, and that is why we extended the period for consideration from thirty days to 120 days, and the Reserve Bank put all its normal inspection staff on verification of figures that have come from the banks, and figures were, as I said, collected from 30 banks of different classes, being a representative and important sample.

Now, on behalf of the employees doubt has been expressed about the accuracy of these figures. At the instance of the Finance Ministry, the Labour Ministry sent a telegram to the All-India Bank Employees' Association on the 13th August, 1954, as under:

> "Reference your statement in brochures sent, send full lists if possible office by office showing reductions consequent on Sastri and Appellate Tribunal Awards in the case of 42 per cent of employees."

—which they claim would be affected.

> "Please also send figures to show that basic wage of 75 per cent employees will be reduced. Regarding ten cases noted in brochures send immediately break-up of basic pay, dearness allowance and any other allowances. Please send all material immediately by return of post to Delhi."

No reply has been received to this enquiry up to date.

Now, Sir, a few comments on the specific modifications made. I have already referred to the fact that we tried to intervene, but that our application was rejected in regard to the operation of the award in towns with populations of 30,000 or under. Our stand was and is that rural banking is of importance from the public point of view even if both the parties to the industrial disputes are uninterested in it. And here are some figures.

There has been a fall in the number of rural branches from 1956 in 1948 to 1,659 in 1953—at a time when we are trying to expand and two years of the Plan have already elapsed. Even today, only 1,301 places in India have any banking facilities at all. Each fresh branch means Rs. 10 lakhs of idle deposits collected and an equivalent or a smaller or larger sum given out as advance to trade and commerce according to the business of the locality. Here also the scale in the modification made by the Govt. is taken from the Sastry Award itself. This scale was applied in the Sastry Award to Class III area. Rural banking has special significance from the point of view of small scale industries which predominate in rural areas. I might also say that if we find that rural banking has expanded after a year when the term of this award has expired, then there is nothing to stop us from stepping up the emoluments of the people, but in the meanwhile banks will have been enabled to try out, to poineer, so to speak, in a new field of importance.

Shri T. N. Singh (Banaras Distt.—East): Is it possible under the Act to re-modify the modified order?

Shri C. D. Deshmukh: I am saying after one year. I am supposing for the next three years some banks venture out into rural areas, and find that business is developing, that commerce and industry are developing in those areas, and their figures show profits instead of losses, then, there is nothing to stop us or the bank employees from having a fresh wage, so far as that particular thing is concerned.

An Hon. Member: Only the award, not as modified.

Shri C. D. Deshmukh: The point on which to focus attention is that curiously enough, this award has force only for one year and—as I just pointed out before the Prime Minister came—for that particular year, there is no change.

[Shri C. D Deshmukh]

So far as the Part B and other States are concerned. I have got heaps of material here, which show that certain States would have been very badly affected, had the tribunal award not been modified. I shall not take the time of the House, I am afraid I have already taken a lot of time, but so far as Travancore-Cochin is concerned, I would challenge any Member from Travancore-Cochin to get up and say that banking in Travancore-Cochin would not have been affected, if the Labour Appellate Tribunal Award had been implemented for that State. I have all the figures of a number of banks. There are about 160 odd banks in Travancore-Cochin, functioning with 624 branch offices. And the Travancore Bankers' Association, Kottayam, has sent a telegram to us, that....

Shri A. M. Thomas (Ernakulam): I have got a copy of that telegram here.

Shri C. D. Deshmukh: I see, that hon. Member also has a copy of the telegram.

I shall now close by referring to one important matter, and that is the United Bank. I must say in plain terms that the charges levelled by the hon. Member opposite, the Deputy Leader of the Communist Party, are entirely unfounded. He finds it so easy to level charges in this place, of lack of *bona fides* against Government and all its actions, now I should like him to repeat the charges outside the House, and maybe those directors whom he charges will be able to take care of themselves. One hon. Member who has been a director here is a member of the Planning Commission. He said that the Deputy Finance Minister was still a director. I do not think so.

The Deputy Minister of Finance (Shri A. C. Guha): I was never a director.

Shri C. D. Deshmukh: He has never been a director.

Shri H. N. Mukerjee: I referred to a former Minister who was Chairman of the Board of Directors till the other day, and I said also that a Deputy Finance Minister and the Chief Minister of West Bengal are personal guarantors for extra large sums of money which are drawn as overdrafts from this particular bank, by methods, which appear on the face of it to be very dubious. And I repeat it.

Shri A. C. Guha: I can say on my behalf that I have never been a guarantor of any loan on any bank, not to speak of the United Bank. Nobody would give any loan on my guarantee.

Shri C. D. Deshmukh: That leaves out one Deputy Finance Minister. There is another sitting here. I do not know about him.

The Deputy Minister of Finance (Shri M. C. Shah): I am not a guarantor in respect of any bank, nor have I got the means to be a guarantor.

Shri C. D. Deshmukh: I wish to say this that neither of the two Deputy Ministers have had any thing to do with the consideration of this matter. They have not contributed a single word. In fact, you can ask the Deputy Finance Minister as to when he saw the file. He saw it after the decisions had been taken, and he complained to me, as a matter of fact, that he had not been kept in the picture. That is a fact.

Shri A. C. Guha: Yes.

Shri C. D. Deshmukh: It is a fact, and I had to pass an office order that any important matters and subjects which were handled by the Deputy Finance Minister should go to him at least on the way back, and that, I hope, will be done in the future.

In regard to this United Bank, both the Sastry and the Appellate Tribunal had recognised the special position of this bank. It was set up by the amalgamation of four separate units

in 1950. Three of these four separate units fall under the 'C' class category, and the fourth one in the 'B' category. Therefore, the hon Member was wrong when he said that three qualified for B class, and one qualified for 'C' class. That is a mistake.

Three of these four separate units fell into the 'C' class category and the fourth one into the 'B' class category. It has not been possible for the amalgamated bank to reorganise its staff after amalgamation: it is anomolous that merely a combination of four such units brought about for the safety of the banks should now have the effect of it being classified as a class 'A' bank, although up to a certain date it has to be classified as a 'B' class bank. Having regard to this, the two tribunals authorised this bank to be classed as 'B' for a limited period. Therefore, some kind of special regard was paid to the bank. Now, on a detailed investigation of the case—which the tribunal, as I said, could not make because it did not know how exactly this award would affect that bank—with the help of the Reserve Bank, Government were satisfied that this unit would not be able to sustain even such a classification. We, therefore, decided to exclude this bank also and proposed to refer the case of this bank—that is another point—to a fresh tribunal with particular reference to re-organisation of establishment with a view to reduction of costs.

Bengal underwent grave banking crises during the middle and late '40 and to this day funds to the tune of Rs. 25 crores are involved in banks in liquidation or under schemes arranged in Bengal. This, I may say, is the only major banking unit in Bengal with locally raised capital. I would request the hon. Member to study the affairs of this bank and then come to the right conclusion that this bank was excluded for good reasons. That is all I have to say so far as this is concerned.

Shri Tulsidas (Mehsana West): I have been listening to the views which have been expressed here in regard to this question of the bank award. The hon. Finance Minister has replied to certain points, but I would like to mention here, as he just now said, that the modification of the award has not changed the position at least for one year, and that in many cases, particularly where the salaries have not been adjusted on the basis of the Sastry award, they will have to be brought up on the basis of that award and those who have been getting more will not suffer a reduction for one year more.

Then the hon. Finance Minister also said that under section 19 of the Industrial Disputes Act, this can again be referred to the tribunal. Therefore, for all practical purposes, the modification of the award has no effect with regard to the reduction of the salaries of the different categories of staff of the banks. That is what I would like to bring to the notice of this House—that there is no question of reducing the income of the staff by the modification of the award. On the contrary, their income will remain practically the same, at least for a year. Then, if the Government refer the matter again to the Tribunal, it will again be taken up.

I have to bring this to the notice of the Finance Minister that when the Sen Award was published at that time the banks were completely dissatisfied with it. Government thought that if the Sen Award was thrown out by the Supreme Court, it would be rather a hardship on the staff. They had, therefore, implemented the award by way of legislation. Now, even the modification of the award which is now made, as I pointed out, is not going to reduce the expenses of the banks. Therefore, to that extent the hardship of the banks will continue; the onerous conditions which the Sen Award had put in and the other conditions which this award of the Labour Appellate Tribunal has put in will also continue.

[Shri Tulsidas]

Even with regard to the modification, it is in relation to the basic salary and the dearness allowance, while there is no modification with regard to other conditions. As regards the question of bonus, I may point out that that has not yet been modified; the matter is still *sub judice*. The banks have appealed to the Supreme Court and are awaiting judgment. But, as I have just now pointed out the Government have not modified the decision of the Appellate Tribunal with regard to the other conditions.

The Government have given the figures with regard to how the staff under the different classes and different areas compare with the staff of the Government—whether the Central Government or the Bombay Government—or other State Governments. I would like to point out that in this are not included the other emoluments the staff will get. This includes merely the basic salary and the dearness allowance. The other amenities, the bonus, the gratuity, the medical aid and the other expenses are not generally included in the salaries and these are not taken into consideration when comparing the figures. The Finance Minister has pointed out that after seeing the working for one year they may come to certain conclusions as to how the working of the banks should be allowed to continue.

The Finance Minister has given figures to show how the banks' profits have been reduced. There has also been a rather vague impression that there have been large secret profits got by the banks. I would like to point out that the working of the banking system in this country is costly and I do not think that in any other country the banking system has such exorbitant costs. In America, the cost of the banking system is much less than what it is here. In 1952, the establishment expenses of the Indian scheduled banks worked out to 1·8 per cent. of their deposits, as compared to only ·84 per cent. in the American banks. (*Interruption*). Here, we want to increase the deposits so that the turnover of the banks may increase. But, even during the last six or seven years, as the hon. Finance Minister has pointed out, in spite of so much expenditure under the Plan, the deposits of the banks have not increased. That shows that there is a certain amount of lack of confidence amongst the investing public, particularly the banks, because they find that the establishment charges of the banks go higher and higher (*Interruption*).

As the Finance Minister pointed out, though the big banks have been maintaining their dividends since the last six or seven years, the market prices of their shares have gone down. That again shows the lack of confidence of the investing public. The Imperial Bank shares are supposed to be one of the giltedged securities and are placed as trustee securities. In 1947, the share price of the Imperial Bank was Rs. 2,275 at the highest and Rs. 2,144 at the lowest.

In 1954, that is up to 7th of August, it was 1,730.

Mr. Chairman: There are two more hon. Members to speak on the subject and therefore I would request the hon. Member to finish in one or two minutes.

Shri Tulsidas: Sir, I am just trying to give a certain amount of illustration with regard to the working of banks. There seems to be a certain amount of feeling that the banks are bodies which have on the whole certain special isterests. Now, the bank staff, in my opinion, is a category of staff which shall have a greater responsibility. As pointed out by the hon. Finance Minister, there are a large number of depositors with whose money the bank is really playing. The bank's capital is a mere insignificant little thing and the deposits really count. It is this very staff who are responsible to

look after this money and it is this staff to whom the banks look to. I can tell the hon. Members here that there are instances in banks where persons have gone from the rank and file of the banking staff to the position of Manager.

Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy (Mysore): In how many instances?

Shri Tulsidas: I can cite some instances. There may not be many cases, but there are a number of cases. In one case the person concerned has become the General Manager and in other cases they are Managers. If the bank employees have this sort of attitude of strikes, *morchas* and other threats, these responsible people who are supposed to be the future Managers of their different institutions, how will they be able to function? How will they create confidence amongst the people? In banking institutions deposits come in merely on the confidence which is created in the minds of the public. Therefore, to that extent I would request them to see that it is not like any other industrial worker that the bank employee has to function.

Now, Sir, here is another point which I would like to mention.

Mr. Chairman: May I request the hon. Member to finish now? He goes on adding points after points. As I have already said, I propose to call two more speakers now and we must close the discussion at 1-15. The hon. Minister in charge has not spoken as yet. Therefore, I would request him to close his speech.

Shri Tulsidas: There is only one more point and it has very nicely been put in this magazine. This is what it says:

> "Unfortunately, those who sympathise with the employees have forgotten the duty that the employees owe to the unemployed".

That is the most important aspect. We want more and more people to be employed in the banking institutions. We should increase the number of staff much more and that is a point which I would like to point out.

Shri K. P. Tripathi (Darrang): Sir, I have given the most anxious consideration to this modification of the award and unfortunately I have come to the conclusion that I must pointedly differ with the Government though I belong to the Government party. Sir, the hon. Minister has said that there is power vested in him to modify the award. We humbly submit that the modification of an award is a very unfortunate thing because it is likely to destroy the confidence of the working class in this institution set up by the Government in the country. When this institution was set up, it was set up with a different idea to inspire confidence and it has worked in that way. People expect certain things of it and the main thing which they expect is a finality. This finality is not for all time, but only for one year, but a 'finality' all the same. Therefore, when an award is given it should be permitted to run out its course for the year and then only anything should be done to find out whether it has affected the industry adversely. From that point of view, I feel that the Government by modifying the award have merely taken a hand in destroying the institution which they themselves created. This, I feel, is the most unfortunate thing, and therefore I have taken this course to differ with the Government.

An attempt has been made to prove that this action was absolutely necessary and justified because the paying capacity of the banks could not bear the burden. But, I find that the Tribunal has pronounced its verdict on this question. It has said that from the balance-sheet itself it is apparently clear that the banks can bear the burden of this. Therefore, if the Government now say that the banks cannot bear, there is a difference between the Government and the Tribunal. How does this difference arise? Because of a private discussion between the Government and the bankers,

[Shri K. P. Tripathi]

the Government has become convinced that they cannot pay. The banks could not convince the Tribunal of this very thing, but they have, by the back-door, convinced the Government. If this stand is accepted, then it must be realised that all the employers might run through the back-door to the Government in order to convince them that a certain award is incapable of implementation, over the head of the tribunal. This is most unfortunate and is going to destroy the institution altogether.

With regard to the paying capacity of the industries, I find that the dividends, which had been declared, have gone up in many banks. There are other banks which have maintained the dividends. The Sen Award obviously prescribes higher salary and dearness allowance than that provided by the amendment. What have the Government to say? Why did they not implement the Sen Award? According to them, it is stated that the Sen Award gives less than the Appellate Tribunal award. The Sen Award has been in implementation for four years. When there is the implementation of an award for four years and not a single bank or its branch has closed during the period, is it not proof positive that it can be borne by the industry? Any rational person would have to accept that.

Shri A. M. Thomas: Was that award applicable to Part B States?

Shri K. P. Tripathi: I will come to it later on. Accordingly, there was logic for going back to the Sen Award, but the Government have tried to convince the House and the country that there was some logic for modification. Even if the necessity of modification be accepted the Government have not been able to convince us why they should not go back to the wage level of Sen Award. That argument has not been proved in the House or anywhere else.

Shri C. D. Deshmukh: The Sen Award was no award; it was declared by the Court to be invalid. If we are to modify an award, we are concerned with the Sastry Award, or the award given by the Tribunal to which an appeal lay from the Sastry Award.

Shri Sadhan Gupta: Was it not declared a nullity on technical grounds? (*Interruption*).

Shri C. D. Deshmukh: It was not.

Shri K. P. Tripathi: What the Government has done is to modify the level of wages below the Sastry Award and the Sen Award. I am asking them the straight question: why did you not think it advisable to go back to the wage level of Sen Award?

Shri C. D. Deshmukh: Because it was so absurd. As I said, Dehri-on-Sone is to get far more than Calcutta...

Shri K. P. Tripathi: The whole point is this: when a certain award has stood the test of time if Government gets certain new facts whereby they think that it should be modified, then it is not enough to modify it by listening to one party alone. It becomes the bounden duty of the Government to listen to the other party if the question is to be re-opened. According to my mind, to absolve themselves of the charge of partiality, when the Government thought that the Appellate Tribunal award was not practicable, they should have called both the parties to find out what is the level that is possible.

1 P.M.

Shri Bansal (Jhajjar-Rewari): Is it not a fact that Government called both parties before modifying it?

Shri K. P. Tripathi: The Government did not claim that they called both parties. My hon. friend thinks out of his own mind that perhaps both might have been called by Government. Actually, it was not a fact. I begin to feel that the way in which this modification was effected has been regrettable, and if the Government

realise that it will create very unfortunate repercussions on the psychology of the people and the working classes in the country.

With regard to the ratio of establishment expenses to gross profits, which is the material thing at issue, I find that in 1948, it was 44·81, and in the years 1949, 1950, 1951 and 1952, it is 48·08, 50·80, 48·68 and 50·86. If we take the entire operating costs and not the establishment charges alone, we find that it is 60·6, 63·7, 65·7, 64·8 and 66·7. You will realise that in any industry, generally the net profits come to only about 25 per cent. Here it is more than 30 to 34 per cent. Obviously, there is a higher margin in this than in other industries. In other industries they have to set apart a very high percentage of their gross earnings against depreciation, but this is an industry in which there is very little depreciation. Therefore, there is still less necessity of making provision for depreciation and so it has a higher margin of paying capacity than other industries. I understand that this industry is a credit institution and it should have a higher margin, but the margin is fairly high and its paying capacity, therefore, is higher than the other industries. I feel that Government have not sufficiently taken into consideration this aspect of the question, namely, the higher paying capacity of this industry. Therefore, there is a reason for the Government to reconsider the situation still. The Government finally have tried to justify their action by quoting figures of Government servants' emoluments as against those of bank employees. What the Government have done is very dangerous. Government have stated that the emoluments prescribed to the staff in the banks were higher than the Government scales; therefore, they now stand committed to reduce the scale of pay of the managerial staff, for which we have been asking so long. The Government have not done that.

Government have laid a ceiling on dearness allowance in the case of staff. What I find is that Rs. 900 has been given as dearness allowance to some of the supervisory staff in the Imperial Bank. There has been no ceiling laid there, although they were earning as high as Rs. 21,000.

We are completely unconvinced of the necessity of the action taken by the Government. When I say this, it must be realised that it was the bounden duty of the Government to make it abundantly clear and show substantial justification for their action. That they have not done. Therefore, the Government will take some action in the near future to restore justice by withdrawing the modification or else they should set up a Committee to determine further amendment to the award which will be more rational.

Shri S. S. More: Are you not convinced by Mr. Gadgil's argument?

Shri K. P. Tripathi: No.

The Minister of Labour (Shri V. V. Giri): After an exhaustive speech that my hon. colleague, the Finance Minister, has made, I have very little to say. The reasons for the modification of the award have also been given in the statement annexed to the order of the Ministry of Labour dated 24th August, 1954, and placed on the Table of the House. Ever since the publication of the Appellate Tribunal's award, when rumblings of growing discontent on both sides began to be heard, I have been greatly concerned on two accounts: firstly, I have been most anxious that the state of tension which has existed in the relationship between employers and employees in the banking field during the last five or six years should relax and give place to an enduring relationship, based on goodwill and contentment. Secondly, I have been equally anxious that while the terms of final settlement of the dispute should not be such as to injure the cause of banking in the country, they should be fair to the vast number of what are known as the lowest categories of bank employees and who have put up with much trouble and

[Shri V. V. Giri]

expense during all these years of costly litigation.

It is true that Government has been given the power, under the Industrial Disputes (Appellate Tribunal) Act, to accept, reject or modify the award of an industrial tribunal, if and when Government is satisfied that it is expedient, in the public interest, to do so. It cannot be disputed that the said powers should be exercised by Government with due care and caution in exceptional circumstances, and for very strong reasons of public interest and that the modification of an award of an industrial tribunal by executive action is *prima facie* not desirable. I also subscribe to the views expressed by many hon. Members that the sanctity of the award which is in the nature of a judicial pronouncement should be respected by conventions and precedents. Hon. Members have heard from my colleague, the Finance Minister, how the full burden of the Appellate Tribunal award might have brought about a crisis in the banking industry.

Dr. Jaisoorya (Medak): We have not been convinced.

Shri V. V. Giri: In particular, he has told the House how banking facilities in rural areas might have suffered a serious setback on account of the burden. The statistics and arguments that he has adduced are before the House and I would beg of hon. Members to consider them dispassionately. If any bank is really going to suffer a serious set-back, I am sure that this House—and I venture to say—all sections of it, will accept the necessity of modification however much they might ordinarily condemn such a step as being bad in principle and unacceptable in practice. After all, it is only in a healthy economy that bank employees or any other groups of wage-earners can hope to secure a reasonable living. No doubt, Government must take care to see that the awards of judicial and quasi-judicial bodies, arrived at after the most exhaustive studies and researches, are not lightly brushed aside and that none but the gravest consequences are allowed to justify any modification which might go against the immediate interests of the weaker side, that is, labour. Government have placed all their cards before the House and it is for the hon. Members to decide whether their judgment is right and whether it has been taken only after the most careful consideration.

It cannot be a pleasant prospect for any Government to pass orders which will have the effect of depriving low-paid employees of a portion of their emoluments, and when they undertake such an unenviable but perhaps inevitable task, they would be doing so after careful consideration. Governments are no more infallible than individuals, but no Government worth the name can afford deliberately or negligently to cloud its vision and judgment by partiality or careless assumptions. I would, therefore, appeal to hon. Members not to doubt the *bona fides* of Government. If Government, in fact, have gone wrong, it is for the employees to place facts and figures before them with a view to persuading them to change their decision. According to one estimate made by the employees, 70 per cent. or so of the employees stand to lose by the amended award. If that is so, employees would do well to supply lists of persons who will be suffering a reduction in their emoluments.

Finally, I must appeal to both employers and employees to consider these problems objectively and dispassionately. They have been before courts and tribunals for the last five or six years and have expended a good deal of time, temper and resources in the prosecution of the judicial proceedings. It is time that they settled all old scores and got down to the business of banking. Their own prosperity—be they employers or employees—is directly linked to the prosperity of the bank they serve and

anything that affects the latter, must inevitably affect themselves too. The creation of an atmosphere of goodwill alone will improve labour-management relations, and for that purpose, the parties must adopt a generous attitude of give-and-take towards each other. My advice to my employer friends is this. Search your hearts and if you find savings, implement the award as it was before the amendment. To my employee friends, I should say that they should not examine the changes made by Government with too powerful a magnifying glass, and that they must take the award as a whole with its good and bad points. I would tell both that if they do not deliberately and studiously cultivate a policy of goodwill and tolerance the future will be bleak for both.

I have nothing more to add.

Shri T. N. Singh: In regard to the point raised by Shri Tripathi, I want to know from the hon. Minister whereas employers were allowed to represent their case through their lawyers, a similar opportunity was not given to the employees?

Shri V. V. Giri: The employees were given an opportunity.

Dr. Jaisoorya: What time did you give them—less than fortyeight hours.

Mr. Chairman: Does it not appear from the papers circulated that the employers and the employees were both given an opportunity of being heard?

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till a Quarter Past Eight of the Clock on Tuesday, the 31st August 1954.